KHADI-GRAMODYOG

Vol. 2 August 1956 No.

OFFICE OF ... TRAINING CENTRE
17 SEP 1956
13/4
ADUTURAI

"IF THERE IS LOVE...."

"There are in every village some who have land and some who are landless. But all have hunger and all have hands. If all have some land and if everyone has to work on it, it will conduce to the well-being of all. But we refuse to understand this obvious proposition. As a result of this, our villages are steeped in ill-health, poverty and suffering. Let all the villagers come together and live as one family and their condition will change overnight. Bhoodan is a call to live as members of one family. If there is love in the heart one can realise God."

—VINOBA BHAVE

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(From the Resolution of the Government of India).

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, GRAMASEVAKS TRAINING CENTRE
14
17 SEP 1956
ADUTURAI

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KHADI-GRAMODYOG

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THE KHERA REPORT

(BY VAIKUNTH L. MEHTA)

The Report of the Ambar Charkha Committee, popularly known as the Khera Committee, represents an advance over the recommendations of the Village and Small-scale Industries (Karve) Committee from the point of view of the stimulus it provides for progressive decentralization of the production of consumers' goods. The Karve Committee's recommendations took us a stage beyond those of the Textile Enquiry (Kanungo) Committee's recommendations, because, while the Kanungo Committee left the field of additional cloth production to be covered by the handloom industry getting increasingly mechanized, the Karve Committee took the view that the entire additional demand for cloth in the period of the Second Five Year Plan could be met by the decentralized sector of the industry even without the aid of mechanization.

For the supply of yarn a programme based on the use of the Ambar Charkha was placed before the Karve Committee by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. Since, at the time, technological and field tests on the new spinning unit had just been initiated, it was scarcely possible for the Karve Committee to pronounce any opinion about the capacity of the Ambar Charkha to provide the requisite quality of yarn. Hence the Committee proposed that a decision about the programme could be taken only after the tests had been completed by about the end of April this year.

Khera Committee

In response to the request of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, the Government of India constituted a committee to examine the results

of these tests and on the basis of its findings to make suitable recommendations about the acceptance of the Board's five year plan and its inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan. While the principal task before this new Committee was to assess the results of the technological tests, it was also called upon to examine the economic basis of the programme. The considered verdict of the Khera Committee is that the Ambar Charkha possesses immense possibilities for securing the decentralization of the cotton spinning industry and that it is practicable on the basis of this improved spinning unit to prepare a programme for the production of cloth, particularly for the purpose of achieving local or regional self-sufficiency in the supply of an essential commodity.

It is true that the size of the programme formulated by the Khadi Board for the first year of the Plan-period has been cut down to almost half its original size and that the allocation for the second year is proposed to be determined only after the results of the first six months' working have been scrutinized and found to be satisfactory. Those associated with the drawing up of the programme need not cavil at this approach, because they must recognise that, as the Khera Committee has emphasised, there is a need for cautious advance and most careful organisation in every direction. The official acceptance of the thesis that decentralization of the spinning industry is feasible, that the Ambar Charkha shows the way and that decentralization of production is a goal towards which efforts should be directed —all these propositions constitute gains which should hearten those who have urged that the pattern of our industrial structure should undergo a change.

Approach And Outlook

It is these considerations that led the Board at its last meeting to express satisfaction at the findings of the Khera Committee and at the programme formulated by it inasmuch as they indicated a definite trend towards an integrated development of the rural economy. To the constructive approach and practical outlook animating the Khera Committee's report may be attributed the place assigned in the common production programme for cloth to handloom cloth produced with the aid of yarn turned out on the Ambar Charkha. But, of the aggregated additional demand for 1700 million yards, Khadi will provide 300 million yards with the possibility of the quota being raised by 150 million yards in case the performance is satisfactory in the first year or two.

Traditional Charkha

Keeping in mind, however, the objectives the Khera Committee had in view in drawing up its programme, it is the opinion of the Board that the details may have to undergo certain modifications. As the main objective is the diffusion of employment and the provision of full-time or part-time work for as large a number of persons as possible, it has to

be recognised that there will be circumstances where the traditional spinning wheel performs a service which cannot be rendered by the Ambar Charkha. The aged or the infirm or the physically disabled can ply the usual spinning wheel, but not the Ambar Charkha. In recent years, to meet the economic distress caused by natural calamities such as floods, famines or earthquakes, the spinning wheel has proved a valuable instrument of relief. Its place can scarcely be taken by the Ambar Charkha. So also those who spin for meeting their personal clothing needs may prefer to use the traditional charkha. For all these reasons it would be an error to draw up a regular programme for the replacement of the spinning wheel by the Ambar Charkha.

Self-Sufficiency

Another suggestion of the Khera Committee that preference should be given to families of weavers in the matter of distribution of Ambar Charkhas, though in itself very significant, has its limitations. It is true that one of the aims of the movement is to ensure a regular and continuing supply of yarn for handloom weavers so that they can ply their looms throughout the year instead of for less than half the year as is the case with a large number of looms at present. The under-employed in the industry will have fuller employment both at the charkha and at the loom. At the same time, equally insistant is the need for diffusing employment with the aid of the Ambar Charkha in rural areas among agricultural labourers, tenants and petty land-owners. Regional self-sufficiency of the type contemplated by the Committee can be achieved only if the Ambar Charkha penetrates every nook and corner of the country, both among the agricultural and non-agricultural population in the countryside.

Certification

The Committee appears to take the view that, with the extension of cloth production with the aid of Ambar Charkha, the distinction between Khadi and other varieties of handloom cloth might disappear and, hence, the present arrangements for certifying cloth as Khadi may be rendered unnecessary. Certainly, if and when the bulk of handloom cloth is turned out with the aid of homespun yarn, the distinction will cease to have significance. But while, according to this approved programme, at the end of the period of the Second Five Year Plan Khadi production may not exceed 300 million yards, production of other handloom cloth would be of the order of 2,200 million yards in round figures. If special facilities are granted for Khadi production, and Khadi, that is, handspun hand-woven cloth, which on sentimental or economic grounds enjoys a special position in our economy, steps have to be taken to ensure that, in the interest of the producer and the customer, arrangements for certificate are continued. According to the Khera Committee, the scheme should be so worked that a subsidy will no longer be necessary for decentralised spinning and weaving. It

should certainly be the duty of those who are entrusted with the working of the programme so to organize operations as to minimize the need for any subsidisation. Technological improvements in the Ambar Charkha, the growing efficiency of the spinners and weavers, the reduction of overheads and the avoidance of needless transport charges may enable the present disparities in prices to be largely reduced. But just as the products of our organized industries, for various reasons, have been extended even today some measure of State support that protects them from the competition of foreign products, the benefit of a sheltered existence in some form cannot be denied to this universal cottage industry of our country. Besides the cultural and sociological value of re-invigorating this industry, economic justification is provided by the fact that, through its medium, it is possible for the State to provide healthy, remunerative, productive work for millions in the countryside at or near their homes of a type suited to the conditions of our economy. The cost of such schemes is, hence, the price the nation has to pay for providing a form of social security over the widest possible field.

YARN FOR HANDLOOMS

Elsewhere is reproduced the text of the resolution on the cloth policy of the Government of India that the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board adopted at its last meeting held on 13th July. One of the demands that is put forward in the resolution is for increasing the size of the cloth production assigned to Khadi from 300 million yards to at least 1,000 million, if not 1,500 million yards. The implication of this is that, if the higher figure is accepted, almost the entire demand for yarn for the additional production by handlooms would have to be met with the aid of the Ambar Charkha. Such a demand is in accordance with the Second Five Year Plan of the Board submitted to the Planning Commission about a year ago. That plan was subjected to the scrutiny of the Village and Small-scale Industries (Karve) Committee. The Karve Committee, as is well known, desired that the potentiality of the Ambar Charkha should be examined through technical and field tests before a decision on its capacity could be taken by Government.

Mill Spindles

At the same time, after examination of the supplies of yarn available for the handloom industry on the basis of the existing capacity of textile mills and the additional spindles that would come into operation against licences up to about this time last year, the Karve Committee came to the conclusion that no further licences need be issued till a decision was taken about the Ambar Charkha

some time in May or June this year, since it was estimated that upto about the end of 1957 there would be enough supply of yarn not only for the existing production by handlooms, but for the increased production contemplated under the Plan. The Karve Committee made the further recommendation that, in case additional spindles were permitted to be installed in the interest of the handloom weaving industry, they should be assigned either to co-operative organisations of handloom weavers or be run by the State on behalf of the handloom weaving industry.

The decision that has now been taken by Government does not provide for additional yarn production being assigned to co-operative organisations or to the public sector. Besides, it is not known whether account has been taken of the licences issued after the Karve Committee submitted its report. It is in addition to these licences, it is understood, that licences for 2,00,000 additional spindles will be issued forthwith. This will raise the total of the additional spindleage for the five-year period to 21 lakhs of spindles as against the figure of 17.5 lakhs of spindles which represented the additional requirements according to the calculations made by the Textile Inquiry (Kanungo) Committee. Moreover, when the two figures are set against each other, account should also be taken of the additional spindles that may have been installed subsequent to the submission by the Kanungo Committee of its Report some two years back. The supply of yarn with the aid of the Ambar Charkha is now accepted as an integral part of the common programme for cloth production. But that part of the common programme will surely suffer if more spindles are allowed to be operated as part of large-scale production.

Yarn Supply

It has been argued that new spindles should be allowed to be installed inasmuch as yarn is in short supply and the handloom weaving industry will not be able to expand unless the supply is increased substantially. Actually, yarn markets do not show that there is any general shortage. The programme drawn up by the All India Handloom Board is not seen anywhere to have suffered because of shortage of yarn. Expansion of production has so far not been of such a magnitude as to make appreciable difference on the demand for yarn. Hence there is no basis for the fear entertained that supplies will run short. In fact, some time back there appeared to be surplus yarn in the market of such dimension as to give rise to a demand on the part of the manufacturing interests for permission to export yarn. It is a great pity that somewhat alarmed by an imaginary danger, the Government of India have induced themselves to permit the expansion of yarn production by mills when, on grounds of social policy, they desire to encourage, to the largest extent possible, the production of consumer goods on a decentralised basis.

Powerlooms

Equally unfortunate is the decision to encourage by vigorous propaganda the replacement of handloom by power-looms. The recommendations of the Kanungo Committee in this behalf had little support in the country when it was published two years ago. The Karve Committee took the view that technological progress in this sector of the industry should be achieved by stages and hence a switch-over to powerlooms could not be contemplated during the period of the Second Five Year Plan in view of the direct adverse effect it would have on the pattern of employment. Such has all along been the view, also of the All India Handloom Board. This will be clear from a perusal of two statements issued by Shri M. Somappa, a prominent member of the Board and his colleagues, which are published elsewhere in this issue.

That problem is not confined, as certain Ministers in the Government of India appear to think, merely to handloom weavers who have work for more than 200 days in a year. In addition to these looms which alone are considered worthy of the attention of the State, there is nearly an equal number which are not fully worked and which have been rendered temporarily idle. Not only will the latter not have the opportunity of being set to work as would have been the case, had the recommendations of the Karve Committee been adopted, but even those which are partially idle throughout the year or for parts of the year, will have the little work they now engage themselves in, taken away from them with the local markets flooded by the cheaper products of the powerlooms. In the circumstances, to set up powerlooms on a subsidised basis as part of a State policy seems to represent action contrary to one of the principal objectives of the Second Five Year Plan, namely, the large expansion of the opportunities for employment. It has been urged in favour of the process of conversion that is being promoted that work on powerlooms is more remunerative. But how would that additional remuneration for a few be socially helpful if, as consequence, large numbers of those engaged on the handloom, lose even the low wages that they now are able to earn?

Automatic Looms

It is however this very consideration of avoiding action which accentuates the problem of unemployment which is responsible for another decision of the Government of India. They refuse to permit the replacement in textile mills of ordinary looms by automatic looms on the ground that this will involve the displacement of labour. The installation of automatic looms is to be allowed only as an addition to the present weaving capacity on the condition that the entire output of the new looms would be earmarked for export purposes. Satisfactory though this decision may be from the point of view of labour engaged in the textile industry, its likely influence on employment in the handloom weaving industry should not be

ignored. The export quota is fixed at 1,000 million yards which is about the maximum limit reached by textile experts so far. This quantity came out of the present aggregate output of textile mills. When part of the quantity is to be provided by the new automatic looms that have now been allowed to be introduced, a corresponding quantity of the present production of textile mills will seek local markets for being sold. This will increase the size of the competitive field in which handlooms have to operate.

To make matters worse, the manufacturing interests have, almost from the very date of the announcement of the policy, tried to have the reservation either withdrawn or relaxed. It was proposed to make the reservation effective by the levy of a penal duty on that part of the production from automatic looms which was not exported. If newspaper reports are to be given credence, the Government of India are inclined to relax the stipulation. On one-eighth of the production no penal duty will be levied even if it is not exported and there will be a sliding scale of duty so graduated that it is only on a quarter of the output that the full penal duty of annas two per yard will be payable. In effect this will render the penalty ineffective or nugatory thus frustrating the very object of the reservation. Moreover, not satisfied with the facilities now granted for increased production, the manufacturing interests have demanded the raising of the number of automatic looms to be installed from 14,600 to 20,000 which proposal, if agreed to, will have a most adverse effect on the expansion of the handloom weaving industry.

—Vaikunth L. Mehta

ARDENT EXPONENT OF SWADESHI

On this occasion when we celebrate the centenary of Lokamanya Tilak's birthday, we recall with gratitude the numerous facets of his manifold services to the building up of Indian nationhood. Not the least amongst these services was his vigorous advocacy of the gospel of Swadeshi, his perfervid preaching of the cult and the active steps he initiated to promote Swadeshi in practice. It was out of his burning love of the country that he accorded to the use of indigenous product the place it occupied in his national programme. It was only then, he affirmed, that we could shake off the domination of our economic life by British capitalist interests with the aid of the British Government of the day and that we could rid the country of its poverty and its unemployment.

With the advocacy of Swadeshi went a plea for simplicity of life. The practice of simplicity represented the Lokamanya's teaching to his countrymen to practise self-denial in order to conserve the nation's resources for being utilized to develop

the economic strength of the people and for giving work to the thousands who were unemployed and under-employed. That being the spirit of Swadeshi which Lokamanya Tilak tried to instil, it was appropriate that later Mahatma Gandhi spread the message of Khadi-which means bread for the millions-with the aid of the Tilak Swaraj Fund collected to honour the memory of the departed leader.

DOUGHTY CHAMPION OF SWADESHI

With the untimely demise of Shri Pranlal Devkaran Nanjee, we have lost one of the stoutest protagonists of the cause of Swadeshi that we have had in the post-Independence era. He was one of the few amongst us who realized that the need to practise Swadeshi was as insistent now as it was when Tilak and Gokhale espoused that cause half a century ago. Poverty is almost as deep-rooted and, with our growing population, unemployment is yet on the increase. To eradicate these social ills, Shri Pranlal preached, we must diversify our economy. The best way, he asserted, in which we could support the cause of Indian economic progress all along the line was to confine our patronage to Indian goods and services. The enthusiasm and energy Shri Pranlal poured into the revived Swadeshi campaign have earned for him - apart from his public services and his own business enterprises - an honoured place in Bombay's economic history.

MUSINGS OF THE MONTH

(By: THE EDITOR)

Problems of economic development of under-developed countries have, during recent years, attracted the attention of international bodies. The International Labour Organisation, Specialized Commiitees of the United Nations Organisation and the Colombo Conference Powers have devoted, considerable time for discussion of these problems and to find solutions for them. A significant characteristic of the South-East Asian countries is that industrialisation, in the modern sense, has not taken place in them. Their economy is undeveloped. Due to historical vicissitudes, ancient and traditional handicrafts and hand industries have deteriorated. Like India, these countries of the South-East Asian Region were turned into fields of exploitation by the highly developed industrial countries of the West. After the Second World War, a new wave of nationalism swept over these countries and continues to motivate the life and actions of their people, and, one by one, they have succeeded in displacing foreign imperialist control. Alongside, a desire for economic self-sufficiency has also been growing and, in several of these countries, attempts are being made to revive the old hand industries with a view to finding solutions for problems relatinq to the economic betterment of their peoples and to raise their standards of living.

India Sets The Example

India's efforts at planned development of her economy and for a radical reorganisation and reorientation of her social structure, have, come to influence these countries and peoples. The success which has attended our efforts has roused in them a spirit of emulation. But a great deterrant to speedy revival and rehabilitation of their indigenous home industries is the lack of trained personnel, of technical knowledge, of scientific information and organisational leadership. Unlike in India, in those countries the traditional arts and crafts have more or less completely died out. No doubt, in scattered areas these arts continue to be plied by stray craftsmen. But, it would appear, the ancient skills are either absent or have considerably deteriorated. An idea of the extent of this deterioration and decay can be obtained from the brief report submitted by a Team of seven men sent out by the Government of India to Cambodia in December last year in response to the request of the Cambodian Government.

The background against which this request was made was a Conference in August last year with the Indian Minister in that country, to exchange ideas regarding the establishment of an eventual programme of Indian aid, to study possibilities of putting in practice this aid and to increase the commercial exchange between India and Cambodia. The team consisted of experts in agriculture, animal husbandry, cooperation, hadicrafts, hand-spinning, hand-weaving and village industries, public health and trade and commerce. The Team which has completed its survey of Cambodia is back in India and has submitted its report to the Government of India.

Report on Cambodia

The team's report covers a wide field and a wide range of subjects. Cambodia has an area of about 70,000 sq. miles inhabited by about 4 million people of whom nearly 80 per cent are agriculturists and fishermen. For the development of agriculture the Report recommends that (1) an experienced irrigation engineer, (2) a soil scientist experienced in Soil Survey work, and (3) an agronomist with wide experience of similar conditions as those prevailing in Cambodia, may be sent from India for a period of two years for the present, while an experienced Horticulturist, having sound knowledge of pepper cultivation, may be sent on a shorter term basis.

Allied to agriculture, Cambodia offers great scope for the development of its livestock wealth. This is a field where Cambodia would welcome help from India in the shape of breeding bulls and cows of good breeds such as (1) Ongole and (2) Hariana. The requirements so far indicated by the Cambodian Government are 4 breeding bulls and 25 cows of each of these two breeds. The team has recommended that an expert in animal breeding and another in animal nutrition may be sent from India for a period of about 2 years, in the first instance. A third expert in disease control may also be sent for a period of 2 years. In addition an expert in flaying may be sent for a period not exceeding 6 months.

Co-operative Movement

There are 9 Agricultural Banks operating in 9 of the 14 provinces of Cambodia. They have not, however, reached out to all villages and their contacts with farmers do not appear continuous or intimate.

For the re-organisation of the co-operative movement in Cambodia, the team suggests the deputation of 4 experts, namely (1) banking and co-operative credit and co-operative legislation, (2) agricultural marketing, (3) organisation and administration of Industrial Co-operatives of artisans and handicraftsmen and (4) Community Projects Administration.

Development of Handicrafts

Industry in Cambodia is still mainly of the handicrafts type. Leather works,

marble–engraving, bronze works, pottery, cane and bamboo work, silk and cotton weaving, fish sauce and pickling, saw mills, tannery, tile-making, silversmithy, çarpentry, handpounding of paddy and oil-pressing are some of the cottage industries and handicrafts that are being carried on in Cambodia.

It is estimated that about 1,500 weavers, dyers and assistants are engaged in hand–weaving and dyeing industry and produce 20,000 meters of cloth annually which is only about 10 per cent of the estimated requirements of the country. Cotton–growing and sericulture are still undeveloped. Hence, silk and cotton yarn required for weaving of textiles has to be imported. On an average a skilled weaver earns about Rs. 1–8–0 per day of 8 hours. For the development of the handloom industry, the steps suggested by the team are: (1) use of improved frame-looms, (2) development of sericulture industry in order to meet domestic requirements in silk yarn, as far as possible, and (3) a dyeing section attached to the existing textile weaving department of the Government School of Arts at Phnom-Penh.

Use of simple improved tools and techniques are recommended in the initial stages of production of all the handicrafts products such as marble and wood carving, cut leather articles, artistic silver wares, pottery etc. To ensure that development plans are effective, other recommendations have been made. They are :

1. Survey of existing handicrafts in all aspects,
2. a public emporium at Phnom-Penh to promote sales,
3. production of handicrafts products and utility articles on co-operative lines,
4. market studies and preferences to facilitate internal marketing and foreign trade,
5. steps to develop sericulture industry, and
6. Government patronage to handicrafts.

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance, the team believes, can be extended by India by sending.

1. experts for spinning, weaving and handmade paper. These experts may take with them 6 Ambar Charkha sets for 3 Centres.
2. experts in oil-pressing and soap making,
3. experts in Palm sugar and other palm products, and
4. technical assistance for palm leaf and fibre products.

In Cambodia, the cane and bamboo industry is fairly advanced and more or less stabilised. But, in order to provide fair wages to artisans engaged in this industry, a marketing co-operative is suggested. The bamboo, in

addition to the use made of it at present, can be utilised in the development of a cottage match industry, as in India. There is also scope for organising bee-keeping and fire works industries.

There are other directions in which India can assist Cambodia in the re-orientation of her social and economic life. These include development schemes. Six centres in six provinces could be opened and the expert could apply their programmes on a demonstration-cum-production basis. An expert who has all-round experience of the organisation of this type and has knowledge of propaganda and production will be needed at least for 6 months.

Public Health Service

A survey of representative areas in 5 provinces and visits to Medical and Health Institutions have shown the need for (a) one Professor of Hygiene and Preventive Medicine for the Medical School, (b) one Public Health Administrator, (c) one General Physician to be in charge of the new hospital for monks, (d) one experienced officer for advising on organising Health Units, (e) the erection of a model dispensary by the Government of India in the capital city of Cambodia as a gesture and token of good-will, (f) a gift of a few jeeps and ambulance vans for the mobile health unit, and (h) supply of drugs like Antibiotics, Vitamins, Calcium Salts, Febrifuges etc. etc.

Hand Industries

A study of some of the handicrafts by the team and information collected from artisans reveal that income of most of them is inadequate and needs to be supplemented to make both ends meet. The existing handicrafts industries are not many and those that have survived are spread over a few provinces. There is no concentration of craftsmen. As nearly 80 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture, they would need gainful occupation during the off-crop season to supplement their incomes. Being industrially very backward, mechnisation of handicrafts and other cottage industries is out of question. The tools and techniques employed by the craftsmen are old and have been handed to them from generation to generation. These would need improvement in order to make them more efficient for cottage operations. The best way, as the team says, to achieve the desired efficiency would be to establish a Pilot Industrial Cooperative for each handicraft and cottage industry at a place where maximum numbers of craftsmen are engaged at present in an industry. These Pilot Cooperatives should be well equipped for production of processed materials and semi-processed products for distribution to craftsmen at their cottages at minimum cost and thus eliminate the middlemen at the raw material purchasing level. These centres would provide new and better designs and supply of cheap materials and other common facilities which the craftsmen cannot afford individually.

While ensuring the continuance of

the present pattern that prevails in the country, these improvements will provide better wages and free the craftsmen from the burden of debt which is one of the main handicaps to their advancement. In the field of village industries the Team suggests particular attention to the development of hand-spinning and hand-weaving and the organisation of industries like hand-made paper, oil pressing and soap-making, palm-sugar and other palm products industries. The needs of the country in this respect are expert guidance.

Trade Relations

The report further says that Cambodia's trade balance is in her favour. Her main lines of export are rice, rubber, forest products, fish, etc. United States' aid has helped to strengthen her economy and need for bilateral trade agreements for exchange of goods is not keenly felt. However, India and Cambodia can develop trade relations to mutual advantage. India could buy rubber, raw hides, coconut oil and timber from that country, while, in exchange, she could export textiles, light machinery and metal products, non-luxury consumer goods, tea and coffee and Indian films. The Survey team is of the opinion that closer ties between the two countries could be developed by our extending technical assistance for the economic development of Cambodia and help her to fulfil her two-year economic plan, Technical assistance could be extended by lending the services of our technical experts, training Cambodian experts or officials in Indian technical institutions, supply of machinery and equipment and dissemination of scientific and technical information.

The Next Steps

A perusal of the report suggests that the work done by the Indian team is, more or less, purely of an exploratory character. Before concrete steps are taken on the recommendations of the Committee, a closer examination, on the basis of the material provided by the team, of Cambodian conditions will have to be undertaken. It is necessary, therefore, that a team of experts in Cottage, Small-scale and Village Industries should be deputed to make this study and of the facilities available for starting model demonstration-cum-training centres. As a beginning, however, the Cambodian Government can be invited to depute candidates to the training institutions run by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. Handspinning and hand-weaving, paper making, carcass recovery and leather goods manufacture, manufacture of palm-gur, palm sugar and other palm products, oil pressing and fibre extraction and utilisation are the village industries in which the Khadi Board specialises. For training in these industries, the Board has arrangements and it should be advantageous to Cambodia to send its candidates for training here. By the time, the Indian Investigation Team completes its work in that country and

finalises plans of development, the Cambodian trainees would also have completed their training in most of these industries. It should then be relatively easier for that country to launch on a programme with the minimum of foreign personnel. Indian experts would stay only so long as the Cambodian personnel is adequately settled in the industries. Any team of experts for the investigation suggested here should be drawn from the All India Khadi Board, the All India Handicrafts Board, the All India Handloom Board and the Central Silk Board. These Boards, have, as a result of practical experience of organising programmes and implementing them, specialised knowledge of the problems and the techniques that could best be employed for the development of rural industries in Cambodia.

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TECHNIQUES OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(By *Dr.* HAREKRUSHNA MAHTAB, *Governor of Bombay*)

The building of India's economy is vital to national progress and should, therefore, be discussed by all intelligent persons and definite opinions should be formed about it so that the plans which are being formulated by the Government may be executed successfully within the shortest possible time. Before we make up our minds as to what the future economy of India will be, let us see its historical background. It is wrong to say that India's economy has always been agricultural. In fact, the economy of no country in the world can be entirely agricultural or entirely industrial at any given time. Before the Industrial Revolution in the West, India was not only an agricultural country, but also an industrial one. At that time India used to export large quantities of manufactured goods. The development of science and technology, which brought about the Industrial Revolution in the West, was for historical reasons, denied to India. As a result, Indian industry collapsed in competition with that of the Western countries because of the latter's advantage of technological development. Assuming it had so happened that the technological development which was available to the Western countries was also available to India, then India would have continued to be a manufacturing country along with her agriculture.

The economy of a country is sound and strong if her agriculture and industry are joined together in harmony. With the destruction of the industries of India after the Industrial Revolution, India remained only with agriculture. Therefore, the economy of India became completely unbalanced and weak. Now this situation has to be corrected. The mischief which was done by the denial of technological development to India by the then ruling power, should be undone now. We have to keep in view another ominous development which is observed now. All regions of the country have not equally developed previously. There was already wide disparity not only between region and region, but also between different classes of the population. In the course of these few years when the country has embarked upon large development programmes, the original disparity, instead of contracting, has been widening. Although every region and every class

are moving forward, the pace of progress is unequal. Thus the rich is getting richer and the developed is becoming more developed, while the poor, in comparison, becomes poorer and the undeveloped becomes more undeveloped.

This is dangerous. This requires correction. We should, therefore have not only development of the country as a whole, but equal development of all regions and all classes of the country. This will be possible only if agriculture is linked up with industry in a harmonious manner. We have to think out how industrialization can take place along with agriculture for the systematic development of the country. Considering all the circumstances prevailing in India, it is not practical to think of building large-scale industries only for the purpose of bringing about industrialization. India can be industrialized only if industries are introduced in the rural areas. India is not a small country that its villages can be transformed into cities at any time. There are hundreds of thousands of villages to influence the Indian economy. We have to think out ways and means of introducing industries in these areas. In that case alone will both agriculture and industry go together harmoniously, thus building up a sound and strong economy for the whole of the country. Rural areas cannot be industrialized unless we think of small-scale and village industries as a practical proposition. The problem, therefore, is how to connect agriculture with industry at the village level, so that there may be equal development all round.

The second Five Year Plan has given the right direction to the country towards industrialization. It has provided for basic industries and small-scale industries as well. So far as basic industries are concerned, they will have to grow rapidly. We should not be satisfied with only three steel plants. We have to think of 10 more in a few years not only to meet our own requirements, but also to meet requirements of the neighbouring countries in which there is no iron ore and which will require some other country to supply them their needs. Similarly, the machine producing industries will have to be set up.

Coming to the small-scale industries, we have to think out how these can be worked out successfully in the rural areas. I propose to deal with this aspect in greater detail. "Household and hand-industry" should not be required to mean literally an industry carried on by hand without the use of machines or an industry which is carried on in a household, but not by several families in a village co-operating together. A warning on the interpretation is necessary because of the opinion held by some since the time Gandhiji laid stress on it. However much one may talk about it, it is not practical for an average family to carry on any industry entirely by itself for the

production of any goods. Even in agriculture, a family has to secure the co-operation of its neighbours either on cash payment or on some material considera-tion. Even in the ancient days, the Var-nashram was intended to secure co-operation among families without any deviation from generation to generation. The four castes gradually became sub-divided into a number of sub-castes as the population increased and as life became more complex. When the needs became larger and larger, labour became more and more complex resulting in division of the main castes into a number of sub-castes. Gandhiji laid stress on self-sufficiency in the family in a general way, but that was and is even now interpreted literally to the extent of *reductio ad absurdum*. Since Gandhiji's name is connected with the industry, and since there are many who have made it a religion for themselves to interpret literally what Gandhiji said, it is necessary to clear one's mind as to what the underlying principle of Gandhiji was and then to apply that principle according as the circumstances demand. Gandhiji's principle can best be described in his own words :

> "If we could have electricity in every village home, I should not mind villagers plying their implements and tools with electricity. But the village communities or the State would own power houses just as they have their grazing pastures."*

*Tendulkar, Vol IV, Page 34.

Gandhiji was against highly organized factories because they deprive workers of their home life. He did not like people to flock to the towns deserting their villages. But it would be very much to the liking of Gandhiji if villagers, while remaining in their homes in the villages, were provided with some work which would increase their income substantially, whatever might be the character of the tools and implements used by them for the work.

It is not my purpose to cross words with those who hold views different from the above. The subject may be discussed on its own merit and, if necessary, even new lines of work may be chalked out if they prove to be practical and beneficial to the common man as well as to the nation. Theory and practice have to be harmonized. To labour hard to earn even a few pice rather than sit idle is good in theory provided there is mental reconciliation to one's fate. But, in practice, one will not labour for eight hours to earn, say four annas, while one sees another earning two rupees with much less labour. Discontent is the result of this psychological resistance to the counsel of reconciliation based more or less on the old Varnashram. Employment means work on remunerative wages. Nobody is in a mood to work on unremunerative wages, for he has the alternative to agitate. To offer employment on very low wages is impractical unless the State comes forward to

enforce something like Varnashram with an iron rod as in the olden days. Faith in fate and in Varnashram having disappeared, rightly in my opinion, we have to approach the problem in a more rational manner.

Village industry should be organized in such manner as to change the character of India's economy from agricultural to industrial, thus providing for a higher standard of living. Obviously, agricultural economy cannot give the same standard of living as industrial economy. The standard of living which is now aimed at by the Plan and also wished for by the people can be attained only by industrial economy and not by the agricultural economy, however much agriculture may be improved.

In order to bring about industrial economy in the villages, it is necessary to link industry with agriculture at the village level. If this is done, industries will have scope for natural growth in the country. How can this object be attained? The processing of all agricultural products, e. g., rice, wheat, oilseeds, etc., may be done on the spot in the village or, say within a radius of five miles from the place of production. Such processing cannot be done with old implements, such as dhenki, ghani, etc., for the old village economy has changed completely. Today the village, like the town, is in the grip of money economy. The village is not an isolated place now as before, nor are the villagers the same old unsophisticated people as they were some years back. Because of the spread of education, development or contact with cities through industrial labour which is drawn from the village, and of communication, the village today demands about the same amenities as the towns-people have or are going to have. The old economy was in terms of goods inasmuch as storage of goods was the standard of wealth. The needs were few and there was no necessity for selling stocks as today. But now the villager is in need of selling his agricultural products as soon as possible so that he may have money to meet other demands, such as clothes, better food, medicines, education of his children, etc. He sells away the raw products of agriculture as he cannot process them with the old implements even if he wants to, nor can he find labour in the village to do the job on the wages offered. Few have the aptitude and the patience to do very hard work for hours only to earn paltry wages. Even if a few hands are available to do the work, it is not physically possible to process all agricultural products on the spot with the old implements. The result is that the agriculturist is compelled to sell mostly raw products to be processed at distant places. The loss incurred by the agriculturist on this account is the profit which is shared between the trader and the mill at a distance. But the agriculturist will be in a position to sell the processed goods if he gets the help of small improved implements which can be plied with electricity.

The following picture with regard to only one agricultural product will

give an idea of how the whole scheme will operate. In order to enable the agriculturist to sell processed paddy, i. e., rice, each village will require at least one huller. If he can sell rice instead of paddy, he can earn an additional income of about Rs. 300 annually even after paying about three annas per maund as hulling charges. The cost of a huller is about Rs 3,000. This amount may be contributed by the villagers co-operating together or even by an individual or by the Panchayat. The return on the capital will be about Rs. 80 per month, excluding about Rs. 30 which is to be paid per month to the mechanic who will ply the machine. The cry that those who live upon dhenki will be unemployed is baseless, as I have found from experience. Conversion of paddy into rice consists of three processes–first boiling, second husking and third sifting. The huller does the most painstaking work, namely, husking only. The Dhenki huskers can earn more by doing either or both of the remaining two processes for which the agriculturist easily pays out of the margin of profit which accrues to him. Of course, there will be a little inconvenience for a short interval till the adjustment is made. This is inevitable during the period of change over from one kind of occupation to another.

Then the scheme proceeds : If each village has at least one huller working, each district will require the setting up of a plant to manufacture hullers and their spare parts. Each police station (Thana) will require a full-fledged repairing shop. All these will open up new avenues of employment to the villagers. One can easily imagine the situation when, along with the rice-huller, oil processing machines, small spinning machines, rope-making machines, etc., will work in the villages. The industry will thus develop from the village to the district headquarters, which will ultimately be connected with the basic heavy industries. According to this scheme, rice mills, oil mills, atta mills, etc., have to be completely decentralized. The textile industry for internal consumption will also be decentralized. The textile industry as it exists today will be required to expand not for the purpose of supplying the indigenous needs, but for supplying the needs of the neighbouring countries. For this a regular export market has to be built up and all facilities for the purpose should be extended to the mills. The present and the future plans of India should keep in view not only the supply of internal requirements, but also the export trade which brings about the prosperity of a country. So also the sugar and jute industries. For all these if small machines are not available today, they have to be devised. Engineers should be called upon to help in this matter. When that is done, then the jute and sugar industries also will be decentralized to the level of the regions where jute or sugarcane is grown. So far as the textile industry is concerned, it can be decentra-

lized to the level of the area where cotton is grown, and cotton can be grown in almost every area. If the weavers are to be helped materially, there should be small spinning machines in a large number of areas spread over the whole country as the population of weavers is spread far and wide.

It is not necessary for the State to take any drastic steps against the existing rice mills, textile mills, etc ; for when the village industries begin getting established on the lines suggested above, the bigger mills will automatically disintegrate. The village industries, run with the help of electricity, can easily compete with large-scale industries, for the former are almost free from overhead charges, cost of transport, interest on capital, high labour wages and a number of other items of expenditure which the latter have to incur. The existing consumer industries should be allowed to run efficiently for the export trade.

Agriculture will have to be organized also in accordance with the needs of the areas. Particularly, cotton and cane cultivation will have to be introduced in all areas. When electricity is available in the villages, it will be possible to build up cold-storage plants in suitable central places so that fruits, vegetables, fish and milk can be preserved for some days at least to enable them to be exported. It is a regretable fact that in villages large quantities of vegetables get rotten and are thrown away because all of them cannot be sold on the weekly or bi-weekly market days. They cannot be preserved even for a few days to be marketed in places at a little distance where there is a demand for them. Similarly, large quantities of fish get rotten and are wasted because they are much in surplus of the needs of the place, but cannot be preserved for being marketed elsewhere. This is also the case with milk. The agriculturist instinctively does not undertake more production of vegetables, etc; because he feels and he has the experience that his articles cannot be marketed. The fact that cold-storage arrangements give incentive to the agriculturist, to grow vegetables, particurlaly potatoes. is within my own personal knowledge. Even the families in villages can have small refrigerators to preserve perishable edible articles during the period between the two market days in the week. This is the skeleton of the integral scheme of development of agriculture, village industry and the basic industries which, I think, is practical and will show results almost immediately.

There is always the loose talk of introducing the Japanese method of small-scale industries in India. That method is roughly this that large industries get component parts manufactured by small industries scattered over a large area and they themselves mainly do the work of finally assembling the parts. This has been feasible in Japan because of the political and social conditions prevailing there. The millowners there have both social and political

influence over the villagers and there is no such thing as labour movement. Here in India conditions are so different that no big industry dare depend upon regular supply of manufactured parts from the villages in time and according to specification. It is idle to expect smooth working of the Japanese method in India due to the very nature of social and political conditions. In Japan industrialization has descended from the top downwards to the village, as for example, without iron ore, Japan has huge steel plants. That is the main reason why Japan has failed in the long run. In India industry should grow from the village upwards. That is what is envisaged in the scheme above.

In order that India may develop industrial economy through village industries, which is admittedly the only pactical way, two points have to be borne in mind :

One is that the production and the consumption of goods should be in the same area or zone as far as possible. No marketing organization will be able to organize village production in one place and consumption at a distant place.

The second is that the production should be linked up with agriculture at the village level, implements and tools should be manufactured regionwise, while the basic industries should produce the manufacturing plants. In this way alone can agricultural economy be converted into industrial economy and the new India of our dreams will emerge.

This is the way to rapid equal development of the country which is aimed at. — (From an address to All Nations Society of Art and Culture).

EAT MORE AND MORE

HONEY

★

EXTRACTED THE MODERN WAY

★

HONEY BUILDS BODY AND BEAUTY

and

KILLS FATIGUE

TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE AND ITS SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

(By *Dr.* GYAN *CHAND*)

The issue of the choice of technological change i. e., the choice between the handicraft and the highly mechanized power production which has been raised by the provision for investment in the cottage and small industries in the Second Five Year Plan presents basic issues of far-reaching significance. These issues need to be thought out and discussed as clearly as possible, for, we, in India, are now on the threshold of great changes in both technological and social spheres—changes which will transcend the limits set by our own efforts and objectives of planned development. The issues arise at a time when the prospect of automation through remote controls present similar issues all over the world, the implications of which, in different social contexts, call for decisions of great importance in all countries. In the Soviet Union the decision has been taken already and they are going all out for automation in their next Five Year Plan with the conviction that the replacement of men by machine run, directed and regulated in their working from a central control station through electronic devices is, in a socialist economy, the climax of man's mastery over nature in the best interests of the latter and the utilization of the heritage of knowledge and technique for raising not merely the standard of living, but also the standard of life — for changing its quality, content and meaning. In the U. S. A., U. K. and Germany the decisions on a social level have still to be taken; but automation is in fact being very widely adopted and there the issue would probably be settled by "the free play of economic, forces", i.e., by the industrialists making this profound technological change in quest of higher profits and leaving the community to face the consequent social stresses as best as it can.

Indian Paradox

In India, on the one hand, we are giving highest priority to the development of heavy industries, involving, as they do in most cases, the use of the very latest technique, e. g., in steel mills, while, on the other, we are assailed by serious misgivings in regard to 'centralized' economy which, according to the current view, is bound to emerge if our planned development proceeds on the basis of wider use of power production on a mass scale. We are trying to have the best of both worlds by

having a 'mixed' economy of the most highly developed technology in the production of steel, heavy electric goods, machine tools, cement, chemicals etc. and trying to retain, preserve and develop handicraft production in spinning and weaving, rice pounding, oil crushing, making of matches, paper, leather goods and similar commodities of everyday use. This technological contradiction is taken to be an expression of eclectic approach and aversion to any doctrinaire adherence to particular theories of economic growth. In the production of cloth, matches, leather goods, oil etc, in which modern organized industries are already in operation and producing very large proportion of the commodities in demand, we are, through reservations, excise duties and rebates, creating a sheltered market for handicraft production in the selected fields and expect that thereby we shall arrest the decay of the village and small industries and make a beginning in the development of 'decentralized' economy of independent producers – an economy which is taken to be pre-eminently suited to our specific needs, the genius of our people and the democracy in which there will be a wide dispersion of economic and political power.

Piece-meal Thinking

On empirical basis we are prepared to set a limit to the expansion of spinning and weaving mills, the production of footwear and other organized industries in order that the village and small industries may acquire a firm toothold and a position of increasing importance in the growth of our economy. We are not clear as to whether, in the ultimate shape of things to come, both the organized and the 'decentralized' industries would continue to co-exist; but the inherent logic of this approach requires that, excepting the industries in which mass production through the use of power, and modern technique is indispensable, we should almost exclusively rely upon decentralized small production units for the supply of most of the commodities of every-day consumption and organize them on a co-operative basis to realize the economies of large-scale purchase and sale and, where necessary, even of production. On this assumption, the organized large-scale industries would eventually have to be eliminated from our economy so far as the consumer goods industries are concerned; and the limits to their expansion are really meant to be the first stage in their progressive elimination from our national economy. We are still thinking on a piecemeal basis in this regard and are proceeding experimentally, as we must, in the practical application of this approach; but as these steps have to be related to the goals of our economic development, it is necessary for us to realize that, in taking these measures on an empirical basis, we are really committing ourselves to a future which will be profoundly different from the one which is likely to emerge otherwise and the importance of these measures lies more in the direction towards which they are intended to take us than in the immediate benefits in respect of employ-

ment and production which may accrue from them. This is so in spite of the fact that these measures are being commended and adopted owing to the necessity of our having to provide employment for the existing and growing population, who cannot be provided for otherwise and producing the commodities which, for want of capital resources, cannot be made available through the expansion of the organized industries.

Vital Considerations

The crucial point with regard to which the decision is called for, but which is not being squarely faced, is that the small production units, according to the underlying assumption of the new approach, are more desirable from the social standpoint, because

(a) they permit decentralized initiative in production and decentralized management of industries,

(b) they do not involve concentration of private power in a capitalist economy and concentration of public power in a socialist economy,

(c) social costs of production are reduced firstly because the concentration of power is avoided and, secondly, the problems arising out of the growth of highly urbanized population—of housing, transport, sanitation, well-organized community life and submergence of the individual under the pressure of the masses—need not be faced at all, and ,

(d) an atmosphere favourable for the growth of a democratic culture in which each will count according to the measure of his capacity and a sense of real fellowship is maintained and developed, can be created and preserved.

These are vital considerations and must necessarily influence decision and judgment, but they are also relevant from the purely 'economic' standpoint. The fact that statistically the gains or losses indicated by this way of thinking cannot be measured or tabulated even in 'models' or for illustrative purposes, does not mean, from the economic standpoint, they need not be considered or taken into account. Economics, which is different, even neutral, in regard to the dynamics of social change, its technique, motive forces and results, rules itself out as obsolete at a time of profound social transformation and in a country like India whose economy is taken to be in a state of conscious transition towards socialism, it should have no place in creative thinking and effort. These considerations are in the wider sense economic considerations and have to be given their due weight.

II
THE BASIC ISSUE

The basic issue which is giving rise to the difference of opinion, is that modern technique with the use of precision instruments, standardization of parts, utilization of power and *automic* controls is so much more productive,

i. e., output per unit of labour, taking into account the entire labour needed in the production not only of the end product, but also of the machines used in production and in the transport of machines, raw material and commodities,–is so much greater than in handicrafts production that, to discard the former in favour of the latter, really amounts to turning our back on all the advance of knowledge and technique made in the last 200 years and denying ourselves all the possibilities of plenty which have been opened and which can be realised immediately. In a country like India where poverty is so abject and widespread and in which population is increasing so rapidly, efficiency of production, i. e. getting the maximum return for the application of labour is a paramount consideration which can be disregarded only at the cost of avoidable continuance of poverty and misery. As modern technique maximizes return, it should be introduced as rapidly and as widely as possible in order to make India a country worthy of men to live in. As the immediate problem in this country is to give our people the very essentials of existence, the maximum output is, from this point of view, the most imperative need of the people and has to be obtained without causing any social misery and degradation. Mechanized power production in a country committed to the realization of a socialist society need not and should not mean repetition of the evils of the early stages of capitalism, i. e. exploitation of labour, low wages, child-labour, slums and recurrent large-scale unemployment. In a Socialist Society modern technique being the servant of man and not his master, it can be fully utilized without sacrificing health and happiness or creating serious social evils. The problem of the State power being grossly abused, owing to the State being the only or the most important employer in a Socialist Society, is a real problem, but it has to be solved in any case and only a partial use of modern technique in the basic industries is no safeguard against the abuse of State power. It is a problem which has to be solved if democracy is to be real and actually work for the benefit of the people; but it cannot be solved merely or largely by denying ourselves the use of the most advanced technique of production. The problems of transition are there and the pace of technical transformation has to be regulated to prevent serious displacement of labour or other maladjustments; but we have to indicate clearly our policy of superseding the old technique of production by modern technique as fast as possible and use the latter maximizing social well-belng.

Technological Change

According to this view, we are still haunted by the phantoms of the past in approach towards modern technique which should have no place in planned technical and social transformation on which we have already embarked. The five considerations referred to earlier

on the basis of which the perpetuation of handicrafts production is justified are, according to this view, valid as far as they go, but they are not conclusive, for social objectives inherent in them can be better realized through rather than without modern technique, provided the latter is subject to social regulation and control and social good is the prime consideration in its application, development and extension. The choice in regard to technical change has to be made in the context of the operative social objectives: and if we are aware of social implications of the change and have the will and power to utilize it for the good of the community. There is no need to adopt laborious method of production and through in a Socialist Society all should have right to work, and livlihood has to be guaranteed to all; toil as such, is an unmixed evil and the less of it, the better. Idleness is a positive wrong, but the excess of leisure is at present not even a remote danger and the people can be educated to use it creatively. Since we are building up or at least committed to the building up of a Socialist Society, we must take a long-range view of the question of technological change and not create any liabilities for ourselves in the process of development through creating an economic organization on the basis of a technique which can have no enduring place in the future of our national economy. Our attempts to give a longer lease of life at a considerable cost to the methods of production which have already become obsolete would create vested interests based on inefficient technique and eventually be a hindrance to social progress and change.

The implications of these two views have to be clearly understood for, in spite of the fact that though both accept the socialist goal and its human values, i. e. according to both, well-being of the people is the primary consideration and the choice of technique has to be subordinated to it,-the adoption of one technique in preference to other calls for decisions which would hold good for a long time and determine the nature, scope and course of our economic developments. We have to be clear as to the kind of the future which we want to build. It is good to have a non-doctrinaire approach and take the best from everywhere and every system, but it is not eclecticism, but sheer confusion of ideas, if we take decisions, the operative parts of which partly negate each other and involve misapplication and waste of our limited resources. As these decisions are being taken at a time when the country is really at the cross-roads, they have to be made with an understanding of the issues implicit in them and their far-reaching significance.

The Posers

Do we regard large-scale organized industry, even when it is operated by the community or is subject to its regulations as an evil in itself or are we merely afraid of its immediate dislocating consequences ? Are we for small and village industries because for

the time being they provide employment in the context of existing circumstances, i.e., they reduce our need for scarce capital resources or create 'employment opportunities' for the millions who cannot be provided for otherwise? Or do we envisage a future in which industry will find its home in the villages, be operated by independent producers, i.e., the producers who will exercise initiative, judgment, skill and the capacity to adjust production and productive processes to the changing needs of the markets, which, in a socialist economy, would mean needs of the community? Must a decentralized economy, even as an ultimate goal mean an economy of 'low' or 'backward' technique or is it possible to harness nuclear power, even more than electric power, in the service of decentralized industry and realise to the utmost the benefit of the latest advances of science and knowledge without sacrificing human values or creating concentration of public or private economic power? If new horizons are opening up on account of the use of electronics or nuclear power, is it desirable that, owing to our what may turn out to be passing difficulties, we should utilize our limited resources for creating an organisation and setting up a productive apparatus, which must necessarily fight a losing battle under the impact of the advance of modern technique all over the world? Values matter, and man has to be master of machines and not their slave; and yet new technique, like all techniques, has no ethical content of its own, and its social significance depends upon those who use it, their social relations and social objectives. The whole question needs to be discussed on the assumption that we have to master all our forces and strength to accelerate the development of a Socialist Society. The problems and limitations of the transitional period will remain, but the contingent has to be clearly differentiated from the ultimate in our discussion of the ends and means. Technological change being a means, the choice with regard to it has to be related more to our social goals and not merely to 'surplus' per unit of labour or unit of commodity.

III

AND THE ANSWERS

The answers to the questions raised above have to be given: but they have to be related to the massive fact of nearly one fourth of our entire population being unemployed or under-employed and living below our 'poverty line' which is as is well known, far below the poverty line of the more developed countries. The enormous amount of our idle labour is 'prouductive' power which has to be fully utilized as best we can, firstly because whatever it produces is net gain from the standpoint of the community and, secondly, because it provides the material by which the means of sustenance can be provided to relieve, in a small measure, the state of chronic distress in which the 'submerged one fourth' of the community are living. This basic fact was clearly realised more than thirtyfive years ago

by Mahatma Gandhi and was made the pivot of his economic policy. Since we cannot alter it, in spite of our present programme of planned industrialization, we have to appreciate vividly its fundamental importance. The Karve Committee, in spite of planned investment of Rs. 269 crores, in the development of small and village industries, projecting as it does the employment 4 lakhs persons, touches only the fringe of the problem which, owing to the inevitable accelerated rate of the growth of population in the country, is sure to become more and more acute. This fact is so obvious and simple that refinements of economic theory, which have been pressed into service in the recent discussion of the problem, failed to take it into account or give it its due importance. There is no question of 'creating' work or increasing 'toil', but of utilising abundant available 'idle' resources – the enormous potential human productive power – which is today going to waste and involving misery and distress in this country for probably seventy to eighty million persons. Planned development of the country has very little meaning from the social standpoint if this truly gigantic problem remains intractable and is treated as such. Family planning, even on the most optimistic assumptions, cannot solve this problem. In spite of the rupees four crore programme of opening contraception clinics, increasing unemployment in the counryside is an inescapable prospect for the people unless an expanding programme of the utilisation of the unemployed labour power can be devised and put into effect. The spinning wheel was made the sun of the solar system of the village economy by Mahatma Gandhi, because it indicated autonomous action in the years of struggle for national freedom through which a beginning could be made for producing wealth for use in the village. The economic results of Mahatma Gandhi's programme have been very limited so for, but that does not affect the soundness of the essential position taken by him. There is no excuse for not utilizing the available labour power merely because, for want of capital resources, foreign exchange, technical knowledge and skill and the limitation of our economy, we cannot utilize it in large-scale 'organized' industry.

Hand-made Products

All the same the facts remain that goods produced by this labour with such traditional technique and tools (even with improvements) as can be made available to the unemployed labour, the goods produced at that technical level cannot be sold in the markets. This is true of hand spun yarn, hand woven cloth, hand-pounded rice, hand made shoes, matches, paper etc. and hence the need for programme of reservation and subsidies of the Karve Committee. Even with this aid it is not certain whether the quality and price of these commodities would make them acceptable to the consumers, but without it, they

cannot possibly hold their own in competition with the factory-made goods. It is true that the cost of housing, sanitation, roads, means of communications and all the incidental economic and social risks of the highly urbanized industrial centres is borne by the community and all profits go to the private owners of the factories, i.e., these social costs are not included in the prices of factory-made commodities, but even if, by social regulations, social costs are minimised and are included in the price structure, it is certain that the hand-made goods would find the competition of modern factories too much for them and find themselves 'priced out' of the market.

Protection And Cost

The analogy of 'infant industries' is often given and it is demanded that the village and small industries be protected against the competition of the developed large-scale factories as the latter were protected and are being protected against the competition of the developed foreign industries. The argument would be conclusive if it could be stated with confidence that the 'crutches' of cesses, reservation, subsidies and outright grants would be dispensed with within a reasonable time and the industries receiving this assistance would eventually be able to hold their own against the factory-made goods. This claim is, however, not being made by the protagonists of the village and small industries, and it is very doubtful whether it would be valid even if it can be made. The Karve Committee, in its basic approach, has not given this aspect of the matter its due attention. It is very doubtful whether the community can be required to assume the responsibility for subsidizing heavily the industries which would need this assistance for an indefinite period. Protection to 'infant industries' was and is being granted on the assumption that it would, within a stated period, become unnecessary and be dispensed with. This has not happened in a number of cases, but the underlying assumption, of the theory of protection, except in the case of the 'strategic' industries, has remained unimpaired. The Karve Committee programme, stated above, touches only the fringe of the problem and yet its estimated cost is Rs. 269 crores. If the programme has to be expanded and made commensurate with the needs of our economy, not only the cost would be prohibitive, but the prospect of its continuance for an indefinite period would bring home to the country and to the ardent supporters of the programme the need for re-examination of the premises of the approach and its implications. Can the country afford the cost ? Should these industries be supported,—really 'bolstered up',—when it is known that they will have to carry on a very unequal struggle against the large-scale factories all the time ? We are not building for the next five years, but for the future extending to a very distant horizon. If this programme is more than a paltry relief programme —if it is really the beginning of a decen-

tralised socialist economy—then the fact of high cost in labour, not only in money, has to be taken into account. Either the factories and the handicrafts would in the same industries continue to co-exist indefinitely and create almost unbearable contradiction both in theory and practice or the factories would, if the logical course is followed, disappear and be succeeded by the high-cost village industries. In either case the prospect is singularly uninspiring. As in heavy industries the factories cannot and will not disappear, we will have low-cost centralized basic industries and highly decentralised light industries—in both cases cost being conceived in real and not only money terms.

If the cost of the village industries is not unduly high, the intangible social benefits of the decentralized industries are realized and a progressive decentralised economy with the advantage of initiative from below comes into being and is fully operative, higher economic cost in labour may be more than compensated by the social and political benefits of the diffusion of the centres of social gravity. This, however, being all so very conditional, the whole policy and programme of the small and village industries cannot be based upon these assumptions. The cost of the high-cost village industries would in effect mean low productivity, poor return for labour and the sub-social minimum standard of living unless these industries develop, from the technical standpoint, an impetus of their own and combine the advantage of well-organized rationalized agriculture and technically efficient village industries which can provide the rural prosperity and rapid economic growth of the country as a whole.

IV

DECENTRALIZATION

In view of the considerations cited above it is necessary to have a co-herent, integrated and clearly intelligible policy with regard to the development of the village and small industries. The efforts so far made to place these industries on a sound basis, in spite of strong public bias in their favour, have not yielded re-assuring results. The Governments, the State and Central, are really not of one mind with regard to them; and, though, as a concession to the Gandhian legacy, political pressure and vague appreciation of their advantages, measures have been and are being taken to give them a place in our economy, they themselves are not really convinced that the future belongs to them and our planned development has to take place within the framework of the assumptions of a decentralized socialist economy. Owing to the internal divergence of views, the pressure of vested interests, administrative limitations and the lack of a compelling faith, halting, insome cases contradicting, policies are being evolved and the result is that, in stead of having the best of both worlds, we are likely to have the best of neither.

Stupendous Problem

The position, in its essentials, is fairly simple and should not admit of any difference of opinion. A very large proportion of our people is unemployed or under-employed; this very large reserve is a drag on our economy and presents a stupendous problem in itself. As a potential productive labour power, it can and should be a great source of wealth for the country. Unemployment and under-employment of the large section of our population calls urgently for the adoption of measures by which they can be given work and the means at least to relieve their distress in some measure. This cannot be done through the investment of large resources nor the introduction of highly developed technique. The practical difficulties in the way of adopting that course being insurmountable, we have to fall back upon such tools and skills as are readily available and can be immediately utilized. The most formidable difficulty in realizing this object is that the competition of the factory-made goods makes it impossible to start and establish industries with the available skills and technique with any prospect of success, i. e., in the open market chances of survival of such industries are practically nil. By various protective devices sheltered markets within certain limits can be created, but their extent and scope cannot but be limited, and their cost, if they are to make any real material difference to the incidence of unemployment, would be enormous. Moreover, as in the present circumstances, the outlook is that this assistance would have to be continued for an indefinite period, either the import of foreign factory-made goods would have to be completely prevented and the factories for making the consumers' goods within the country eliminated or an uneasy equilibrium created through the application of restrictive devices which, in practice, would produce serious stresses and be exceedingly difficult to sustain and maintain.

More Posers

The larger and more fundamental object of developing a decentralized socialist economy of independent producers is implicit in these measures, but can be realized only in integrated development of agriculture, industry and trade in the village economy and the latter has to be fitted into the framework of the national economy as a whole. In other words, the national economy and the village economy have to be animated by a common purpose and the whole economic policy has to express it as fully and completely as possible. The ultimate objective has to be clearly defined and the transition to it made in stages which progressively would lead to its full realization. The immediate problem of reviving the old village industries and developing new ones has to be dealt with in the context of the facts of the existing situation and among them the most disconcerting is the competition of the large-scale organized factories, Indian and foreign. Is it possible to obviate the need of

meeting this competition? Can production for use be organized in place of production for sale? Can the development of village industries be made an integral part of the re-organization of the whole rural economy on a co-operative basis? Can the unnecessary outflow of goods from and inflow of goods into the villages be regulated not in the interest of the traders, but primarily in the interest of the villages themselves? Can, in one word, self-sufficiency be made the working basis of the rural economy and the village industries developed on that assumption? Those are crucial questions which have to be posed and answered. They have in one form or the other been raised, but they have not been answered in concrete terms, and the experiments on a scale large enough to provide valid tests for the soundness or otherwise of the answers have not been tried.

Self-Sufficiency

Self-sufficiency has, however, been and still is a part of the Gandhian creed and, in its essence, means the application of the socialist principle of production for use and planned exchange of goods according to the assessed needs of the community. An adequate answer to these questions can be given only if we can build up a visible progressive village economy as a sound basis for building up national economy on socialist foundations. Self-sufficiency was never intended to have autarchical content. Its essential idea was full utilization of the available productive resources—particularly labour power—and exchange of goods only in the interest of the community and not in response to the quest for profits. Properly understood, it is an earnest plea for thinking out the problem of economic transformation and development in real terms without being caught in the web of 'money illusion'. It really amounts to an argument for emancipating the economy from the hold of prices and money as a determinant factor, but not for a barter economy in which money is not used at all even as a medium of exchange or units of account. The implications of this concept, as an all-embracing operative principle, need to be thought out clearly and fully and in relation to the plans of development. Without understanding of this principle and its creative application, the present plan of the development of village industries neither would reduce materially the growing unemployment in rural areas, nor provide a basis through which the village economy can grow from within. It would really lead to the waste of large resources through disjointed efforts and remain as a project without social vision or a clear-sighted purpose.

Concept of Regionalism

Self-sufficiency can, at the outset be started with a group of villages as a unit. The productive resources and the needs of this unit on the basis of social minimum requirements can be assessed, and, if parasitism in all forms can be taken to have been eliminated

in this unit, the village economy in this area can be organized on a co-operative basis and its trade with other areas regulated on the basis of estimated genuine surplus of the people and their needs for the goods which they cannot do without and must obtain from wider sources. At the outset the available technique and such improvements as can be assimilated would have to be used, but the continuous technical improvements which can be adopted without creating unemployment, causing distress or dislocating seriously the economy would have to be aimed at or striven for. With rural electrification and later the supply of nuclear energy through small atomic piles cheap power, a much more advanced technique would have to be introduced by stages, subject to the paramount need for protecting the workers against serious social stresses. The higher real cost of decentralized economy, which is inevitable at the beginning, would have to be and could be, with the wide use of power and higher technique, progressively reduced and probably larger and larger units of self-sufficient production evolved in the framework of national economic development on a regional basis. Nominally the concept of regionalism has been accepted in our country, but in fact it has not influenced our thoughts on planning to any real extent or determined the shape of our plans. Through creative application of the principle of self-sufficiency on a decentralized basis in our national economy, the concept can be given substance and made a working principle of real importance in our planned development.

Steps to Success

In order to give the experiment of self-sufficiency a fair trial not only limitaton of production by factories as a part of common production programme is necessary, but also standardization of goods, pooling of costs and prices, a common price policy, but, what is most important, planned distribution of all commodities through state-trading, co-operative agencies and licensed traders would be needed. The cost to the consumer would have to be minimized. But laisez-fair in the internal, more than even in the exernal, trade of the country is inconsistent with the planned development not only of the village industries, but the whole national economy. The organizational and administrative problems of planned distribution would have to be carefully considered and successfully solved, but these problems are a part of the wider problem of economic organization and administration and have to be faced and solved in any case. As decentralized economy is not to be a dream of the future or a utopia but an immediate necessity, the implication of standardization, common price policy and planned distribution have to be clearly understood and put into effect on a sound empirical basis.

The Delerminants

On the assumptions stated above and

INDUSTRIALISATION vs. COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

(By SHRIMATI SAVITRI NIGAM, M. P.)

India is at the cross roads of her revolution. Which direction she will take at this juncture is still undecided. This is the time which calls for caution, determination and readiness to forge ahead in a systematic and methodical manner, on a course well charted through balanced, well informed and clear study of the problems which have to be faced and solved. It we take one false step now, we will condemn posterity to toil and tears. Having established the means to erect our new social order, the emphasis now will have to be on proportions and shades to be given to our progress in various directions. This we cannot achieve by a mere copy of the systems of other countries. Each country develops its own pattern according to its own genius, requirements and objectives.

British Tyranny

Let us look back for a moment. We find no historical records in our country of an upset economy, disbalanced living and misery resulting from it in the country. There was plenty of everything; our arts and crafts had established a universal reputation; and we had established ourselves as a great trading nation. Not that we had been having a peaceful era all the time. Nations descended on this country, pillaged and plundered. But as they came, so did they move out. Our economy received a shock, but it was not crippled or killed. It raised itself to its original height again. It was only during the last three or four hundred years, when the British came, that a systematic and planned effort was made to destroy our crafts, our artisan class and our economy. The way they ruined and destroyed our village economy, our crafts and cottage industries, is pathetic and heartbreaking. This destruction of India's industrial structure upset her economic equilibrium and paralysed the smooth working of village life. The classic example of British tyranny is that of their attitude towards Indian artisans in general, and Dacca artisans who were well-known for their art of producing fine muslin, a specimen of which was exhibited at the All India Khadi and Village Industries Exhibition held sometime back in Delhi, in particular. Karl Marx, the great thinker, rightly stated in the year 1850 that the loom and the spinning wheel, small crude oil mills, the potter's wheel, furnaces of bangles

and glass ware, village tannery and cottage match box and gun producing units, used to give employment and a living wage to crores of people in their own villages.

Dwindling Numbers

How right he was, can be seen from the disturbed state of our economy so long as the British remained in India. They upset it to such an extent, actually in their own interest, that we are finding it difficult to set it on its feet again. During the last half century what havoc it has caused can be noticed from the large decrease in the number of artisans and craftsmen in spite of the rapid rise in the country's population. For example, while in 1901 the number of cottage textile workers was 130.6 lakhs, in 1951 it went down to 76 lakhs. The number of leather workers, which was 49 lakhs in 1901, went down to 19 lakhs in 1951. Similarly, pottery workers who were 33.1 lakhs, were reduced to 12.4 lakhs. Here we should bear in mind that all this took place during a period when industries were being expanded. The reason for this was that, with the increase in industries, village craftsmen and artisans were forced to abandon their crafts, as they could not compete with machine-made manufactures. This unemployment on a mass scale resulted in reducing the purchasing power of the individual and consequently, National Wealth.

The Charkha

This shows what rapid industrialisation which is not properly balanced with rural industries can result in. That may satisfy a few lakhs of urban dwellers or the richer class of people, but for the bulk of the people who live in rural areas, industries have not brought an ounce of difference in their old ways of living. It was in view of this that Gandhiji started the Charkha movement. Since then, conditions have changed a little as our river valley projects have advanced and electricity has been provided in many villages. In conformity with this, we have introduced a new type of spinning wheel, commonly known as the Ambar Charkha. Shri J. D Sundaram, in his report on Assistance to Large Scale Cotton Textile Industry, says that 'its use will improve the economic condition of the most backward areas in the country and the most needy sections of the population, distributing Rs. 297 crores by way of wages over the Plan period among nearly 49 lakhs of persons for whom employment (in terms of full-time employment) will be provided. But there are some responsible persons who do not understand this and keep on comparing the yarn thus produced with that from power spindles. The Government have been wavering for a long time about the sanction to be given for the manufacture and distribution of these Charkhas. Recently, they have sanctioned a few thousands more than earlier decided. But even this is not sufficient, considering the extent of unemployment among villagers. The Government's argument is that the Charkha is still in an experimental stage and they cannot

waste money on their manufacture unless the experiments on them were over. Experiments are continuing processes, as everybody knows. Moreover, experiments on the Ambar Charkha would involve relatively smaller amounts. It has already been repeatedly said by Government that the capacity of productive sources is not sufficient to meet the present requirements, and, therefore, they have pressed the demand for grant of more licences for mill spindles. Those who argue that the scarcity is so much that it cannot be immediately overcome by the Ambar Charkha, are really monopolists of the textile industry. They can always manage to create scarcity, so that, with the consequent rise in prices, they may be able to reap profits. Government should, therefore, take note of this and stop granting further licences for spindles. This would also save the Ambar Charkha from unhealthy competition.

The Other Side

There is another side to the question of mill cloth and the benefit derived by those who produce it. Indian mills produce cloth worth about Rs. 50 crores. Out of this 10 crores constitutes the wage bill. The rest of the figures remaining same, Khadi produced from the Ambar Charkha would provide Rs. 35 crores in wages. Again, if the wage bill in a mill is distributed among approximately 8 lakhs of workers, Khadi with Ambar yarn would distribute wages to nearly 50 lakhs of needy persons.

Paper making is another industry which can provide a livelihood to a large number of persons. Hand-made paper industry of the country, only a few years ago, was among the most flourishing industry of the country. Newsprint aside, for all the other day-to-day needs there is no paper superior to hand made paper. It is unreplaceable for such purposes as :-

1. Currency or bank-note paper.
2. Legal documents like wills, sanads, share and other certificates, important court records, statue books, legal deeds, stamp papers etc.
3. Printing very important books and literature which might not be lost to posterity through ravages of time.
4. Special Drawing paper for artists and architects.
5. Filter paper.
6. Ledger and Account Book paper.
7. Photographic paper.
8. Preservation of addresses.
9. Photogravine and picture mount boards.
10. Artistic stationery, Wedding and Greeting Cards.

The All India Village Industries Association took up the task of revival of this cottage industry in 1935. It started a paper centre at Wardha, mainly with a view to utilising indigenous waste raw material. After a lapse of nearly 20 years, we now produce varieties of paper which are as good as those imported.

Hand-Made Paper

India imports 1,10,000 tons of paper

valued at Rs. 14 crores. These imports comprise mainly of news-print and other special varieties. India herself at present produces, 1,30,000 tons of paper valued at Rs. 17,00,000 employing 30,000 persons. The per capita consumption turns out to be 1.5 lbs. of paper per year with a literacy of 18 per cent. Comparative figures of per capita consumption in countries like America, Canada U.K. and Japan are approximately 285 lbs; 168 lbs. 163 lbs. and 24 lbs. per annum respectively. It is calculated for every pound of increase in per capita consumption, the country would require 1,50,000 tons of paper. This would mean an increase in the use of waste materials as well as employment.

Indigenous raw materials used comprise mainly linseed and cotton stalk fibres. Collection and transport of such materials by mills is uneconomic, but if they are used locally a lot of unnecessary expenditure may be saved. Thus, by using indigenous raw material locally, it may be possible to get approximately 50,000 tons of paper, and this will find employment for about 5 lakhs of families throughout the year. In other words, it can be a means of livelihood for some 20,00,000 souls.

In each of the chief processes involved in making paper, namely, sorting of fibrous material, cutting of it, cleaning, beating, digesting, bleaching and glazing etc., there would be need for more men. It has been pointed out in a publication by the All India Khadi Board that, if we resorted to cottage industry, it would give employment to more hands and the conditions created by rapid industrialisation and consequent unemployment would be counterbalanced. The same can be said about other small industries such as those of leather, China and glass, etc.

State Aid Needed

It will not be out of place to mention here that it may not be possible for us to achieve this without giving some aid to the industries which are already dead. But we should not forget that India's cotton textile and other industries enjoyed protection from external competition during the periods 1926–27 to 1946–47. Today also, the Indian market is flooded with so much cheap foreign products that, unless due protection is accorded to the indigenous cottage industry, there is no possibility of the rehabilitation or revival of rural economy.

In order to give due encouragement to small scale industries, there must be a good deal of propaganda and publicity, so that it may create and establish domestic and foreign markets for our cottage products. Our cottage industry must be subsidised and protected to enable it to compete with the foreign manufactures in their own markets. We cannot have this unless we have a separate Ministry for Cottage Industries. That would attract new blood in the Government and with a new look, would approach the problem in a more realistic manner and with a proper perspective.

CONCERN IN HANDLOOM CIRCLES

The New Textile policy of the Government of India, envisaging the allocation of the estimated increase in damand for cloth of the order of 1,700 million yards during the Second Five Year Plan period to all the sectors of production–350 million yards for mills; 700 million yards for handlooms: 200 million yards for new powerlooms in the Handloom sector; 300 million yards for Ambar Charkha, with a reserve of 150 million yards to be allocated to that sector which is capable of producing it, is strongly opposed in a joint statement issued to the Press by Shri M. Somappa, Nawab Aizaz Rasool, Shri M. P. Nachimuthu Mudaliyar, Shri D. Ramakanta Rao and Shri Lakshman Bapuji Konda, members of the All India Handloom Board, Directors of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society and Presidents of the Apex Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies of the States of Madras, Andhra, Hyderabad and U. P. The statement says:

The Statement

"Time and again it is being voiced that the Powerlooms are the greatest menace to the Handloom Industry, and its most dangerous rivals. While being free from the handicaps and financial strain of a large-scale Mill Industry, they derive the full normal benifits of the Cottage Industry of Handloom and, getting started in villages, they produce the very same varieties produced by handlooms and compete with them in their very market, thus ousting the latter. The horrid experiences of the past when handlooms were totally wiped out of existence wherever powerlooms were started, should serve as a grim reminder in shaping our future policies. Both the Fact Finding Committee and Kanungo Committee bear ample testimony to this fact. The Kanungo Committee has admitted that one powerloom would easily displace 20 handlooms. In the face of these, one is left wondering, as to how, the Government of India which has the interest and well-being of the masses at heart, could decide for the introduction of Powerlooms—be it in the Mill sector or Handloom sector—which, in effect, would mean the large-scale displacement of the Handloom weavers and total paralysation of the Handloom Industry, thereby aggravating the unemployment problem which has already assumed alarming proportions.

The Handlooms

There are in the country 28.64 lakhs of looms as per the statistics of the Government of India. Even assuming that

there are only 22 lakhs, after allowing for non-commercial and idle looms, the production based on the conservative estimate of 6 yards per day per loom, as accepted by the Textile Enquiry Committee and the All India Handloom Board, for 300 working days in a year would come to 4,000 million yards as against its current annual production of 1,500 million yards. It will thus be seen that the anticipated increase of 1,700 million yards by the Second Five Year Plan period can easily be produced by the Handloom sector alone. It is, therefore, unfair to consider introduction of powerlooms without giving a fair trial to the handlooms. Want of off-take due to encroachment of mills into the traditional Handloom market is responsible for the present low production. The scheme of rehabilitation of weavers has just started. There are yet a large number of looms, rendered idle in the past, which have got to be revived. Help from the Cess Fund is hardly reaching 25 per cent of the looms which are within the co-operative fold, while the balance of 75 per cent are standing on their own without any kind of outside assistance whatsoever, which speaks of the inherent capacity, vitality and vigour of the Industry. This is the only Cottage Industry deeply entrenched in villages which can ensure a decent earning to a worker. To seek to introduce powerlooms, which results in the large-scale displacement of weavers, at a time when the handloom industry is being rehabilitated, is to run counter to the Government's avowed policy of helping the hand and household industries towards solving unemployment and under-employment in rural areas. It is a queer anomaly that, while on the one hand active measures are afoot for the encouragement and sustenance of the industry, it is sought to be eliminated, on the other, with the proposed introduction of powerlooms! What is more, the mill sector is proposed to be allocated 350 million yards, over and above 5,000 million yards, while both the Kanungo and Karve Committees, after going into the question in great detail, have given their independent and concurrent finding that the production by mills must be pegged at 5,000 million yards. This position has been confirmed and reiterated by the All India Handloom Board, a high-level body comprising of top ranking officials and men of great experience. The Government of India would be committing a grave blunder from which it would be difficult, if not impossible, to retrace if mills, owned as they are by capitalists, are given a hand, nay the scope, for increasing their production by addition of new looms, as it will have the effect of enriching the wealthy and impoverishing the poor which is diametrically opposed to our national policy of achieving the Socialistic Pattern of Society and the encouragement of decentralised economy.

The Camouflage

It is said that the additional 350 million yards to be produced by the

Mills is exclusively for export in the interest of promoting exports for earning foreign exchange. With the avowed object of boosting exports of Indian Cloth, the Government of India removed the excise duty on medium and coarse counts of cloth, but the mill owners, instead of promoting exports as expected of them, exploited the situation by putting up prices to the extent of the relief in duty. The frequent announcements made by officials of an impending scarcity in cloth, first engineered by mill owners, have been responsible for creation of an artificial scarcity. This has resulted in speculators taking to hoarding of cloth. As a result of such unpatriotic attitude on the part of mill-owners the target of 1,000 million yards fixed for export during the First Five Year Plan period could not be reached, the deficit being as high as 200 million yards. It will, therefore, be seen that as long as the vested interests are there, no improvement in exports can be expected. When this is the position, one is unable to reconcile as to why an additional quantity of 350 million yards is proposed to be allocated to the mills in the name of exports. Doubtless, it will be diverted for domestic consumption even if it were to entail the payment of any penal levy. The only way out therefore is to enforce mills to export a certain percentage of their production. It is also a matter for serious consideration as to why the Government should not take over the entire mill production and straightaway introduce State-Trading in the interest of the consumer and of stabilising the country's economy by increased exports.

Rationalisation

Insofar as promoting exports is concerned, handloom circles are in full agreement that it is necessary in the interest of earning foreign exchange. The Government have already been permitting mills to replace the existing looms with automatic ones. Such replacement alone should enable the mills to be competitive in the export market. Hence in the name of exports to install an additional 14,600 automatic looms is uncalled for and will adversely affect the handloom industry.

The implementation of the revised Textile Policy of the Government of India will in effect, amount to the elimination of the largest, most potential and well-established cottage industry of our country–handlooms–throwing millions of weavers out of employment leading to social unrest of a very high order."

CRITICS OF POLICY ANSWERED

Subsequent to the publication of the above statement, a press report emanating from New Delhi sought to justify the introduction of powerlooms in the Handloom Cooperative sector. The report said : "The Commerce and

Industry Ministry sources said to day that the statement issued by certain members of the All-India Handloom Board, stating that the Government's decision to permit the installation of powerlooms would result in large-scale unemployment amongst handloom weavers, was unfounded.

In the first place, the installation of powerlooms is proposed in order to meet only part of the additional demand for cloth envisaged under the Second Five Year Plan. At present, this additional demand has been taken at 1,700 million yards of cloth over and above the present production, and out of this 1,700 million yards, 200 million yards are intended to be produced through powerlooms. The existing production of handlooms is about 1,500 million yards of cloth. Not only would this remain unchanged, but of the additional demand, 1,000 million yards have been reserved for being produced by the handloom, making a total of 2,500 million yards in all.

It has been stated that there are 2.8 million handlooms in the country and, after making allowance for idle handlooms the balance of 2.2 million handloom can produce 4,000 million yards at the rate of six yards per loom per day. The figure of 2.8 millions was collected in 1951 at a time when there was an acute shortage of yarn and the numbers were inflated in order to secure additional yarn supplies. The Textile Enquiry Committee (The Kanungo Committee), after carrying out sample surveys, assessed the number of active commercial looms at only 1.24 millions. Except in one or two places, the Committee (The Kanungo Committee) also found that the actual handloom weaver is a wholetime weaver by occupation. Their finding has been borne out in the census report for 1951 where the number of full-time handloom weavers has been calculated at 1.28 millions. In order to produce 2,500 million yards of cloth, which has been reserved for the handloom industry, it would require nearly 1.4 million handlooms working full-time for 300 days a year at the rate of six yards a day per loom. It would be apparent, therefore, that there need be no fear of any unemployment or of any "paralysation of handloom industry" as mentioned in the statement by certain members of the Handloom Board.

In this statements, it is also said that the Kanungo Committee had admitted that one powerloom would displace 20 handlooms. Presumably this is with reference to their production capacity. This statement is entirely incorrect. The Kanungo Committee had estimated production of powerlooms at 30 yards a day as compared to six yards by the handlooms. It is unlikely, however, that this high rate of production can be achieved and the average is not likely to be more than 20 yards a day.

The statement issued by the members of the Handloom Board does not refer to the most essential feature of the scheme. It is the existing handloom weaver working in the cooperative

structure as hitherto who would be assisted to change-over to power. This change-over is an inevitable stage in the improvement of production techniques so as to enable the handloom weaver to improve his earnings. At the same time, this change-over would be regulated so that it would be in relation to the additional demand for cloth; and only after care has been taken to see that full employment is provided to existing handlooms.

It is also a fact that each one of these gentlemen know something of handlooms in their locality, but nothing of the rest of the country. Government's policy, is based on precise information regarding the whole country''.

Shri Somappa issued a rejoinder answering the points raised in the press report. His rejoinder is published below:

SOMAPPA SPEAKS OUT

The Commerce and Industry Ministry have said that the installation of powerlooms is proposed to meet part of additional demand for cloth envisaged under the Second Five Year Plan. When the existing handloom sector alone is capable of producing 4,000 million yards, i.e. 2,500 million yards over and above the current production of 1,500 million yards as against the additional demand of 1,700 million yards, one sees no reason why the powerlooms should be brought into the picture at all, before providing full employment to the handloom industry.

Kanungo Figures

The loomage in the country is 28 lakhs as per the figures of the State Governments. Shri Nityanand Kanungo, replying on the sample survey carried out by the Committee over which he presided, brought down the figure to 20 lakhs and reduced it still further to 12 lakhs. His method of deducing loomage as 12 lakhs, basing it on yarn consumption during 1953-54 when the production in handloom was unduly low and without going into the causes of the then low production, was challenged in all handloom circles as totally wrong and unfounded. Those were the dark days when the handloom weaver was faced with unprecedented slump in the handloom cloth market. There was aimless migration of weavers and deaths due to starvation were also reported. Realising the gravity of the situation, the Government were forced to open relief and gruel centres in important handloom Centres. To adopt such a situation arriving at the loomage figure would be like attempting to assess the population census of the country based on off-take of grains through Government depots taking the normal requirement of 16 ozs per capita during days of scarcity and rationing when each adult was issued just 6 ozs.

In the Second Five Year Plan entitled "Indian Handloom Industry Plan for development 1956-61" first prepared by the Secretariat of the All India Handloom Board, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and approved by the All India Handloom Board—a body comprising of about 20 high ranking State Officials and 10 non-officials, in a two-day sitting, presided over by the Textile Commissioner, Government of India, when Mr. Kanungo, The Union Minister for Industry, too, participated-*the figure of handlooms in the country has been taken at 22 lakhs.* It will be significant to note the following observation contained in the said Government publication—which is the latest report on the subject.

Potentiality

"With improved appliances and equipment proposed to be supplied to nearly 14 lakh looms during the plan period, handloom cloth production could easily be increased on an average to 8 yards per day per loom, thus stepping up the total annual production by the handloom industry to well over 5,000 million yards". It is amazing that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry should now try to drift from the figure given by its own departmental wing which is in charge of the handloom section. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry now starts with the incorrect figure of 12 lakhs! This is a pivotal point on which the entire arguments of the Commerce Ministry are hinged.

Para 18 under Chapter I of the Fact Finding Committee Report reproduced below provides ample testimony to show that wherever powerlooms were started, handlooms were adversely affected:

"Wherever these little powerloom units have grown, e.g., Surat, Bhiwandi, Malegaon, Durhampur, Ichalkaranji, the number of handloom has declined and in Bombay Centres this has seriously affected the handloom industry".

The Danger

The Commerce Ministry has failed to notice one fundamental danger in the powerloom. It should be remembered that the powerloom is, after all, a machine which can be worked continuously for three shifts as against the handloom involving the human factor which limits the working hours to 8 hours in a day. While the powerloom is capable of producing as much as 120 yards a day for three shifts, the handloom can produce only 6 yards a day. Moreover, in a powerloom the preparatory processes have necessarily got to be centralised under a mechanised process, while in the case of handlooms they are carried out by the dependent members of the handloom weaver, thereby supplementing his income and providing added employment. The truth about the displacement of 20 handlooms by each powerloom, therefore, becomes very apparent.

Whether within the co-operative fold or outside, the effect of introduction of powerlooms is the elimination

of the handloom industry, and aggravation of the unemployment problem.

Unkindest Cut

It is most unfair that the Commerce Ministry should have dubbed the handloom signatories to the joint statement issued from Bombay opposing the revised Textile Policy, as "those knowing some thing of the Handlooms in their locality but nothing of the country." In fact, they are the elected representatives of weavers co-operative institutions of the respective States, having a direct and intimate contact with weavers and with every aspect of the industry right from production upto marketing, handling, besides, the administration of the Apex societies. They represent the four major States of Madras, Andhra, Hyderabad and U.P. where the handloom industry is deep-rooted, accounting for as many as 60 per cent of the looms within co-operative fold in the country. From the way in which the Ministry of Industry and Commerce have been dealing with this grave issue, it would appear as though they are pre-determined and are bent upon enforcing their decision regardless of the effects it would have on the handloom industry. It is ardently hoped that the Government of India will not implement the revised Textile Policy and thereby ruin the handloom industry. Its implementation will only mean ringing the death-knell of handlooms.

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INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION MUST COME TO RURAL INDIA

(By M. B. RAO)

"REBUILDING INDIA'S RURAL ECONOMY" is one of the ambitious aims which the National Planning Commission have placed before the country in the Second Five Year Plan.

A broad analysis of the Schemes in the Second Plan shows that besides the development of large-scale industries and of the ancillary services of transport and communications, the major developmental plans embrace the entire rural sector of India's economy.

First, there is a vast programme for increased agricultural production. Then there are the Community Projects and National Extension Service which will cover the entire rural population. Third, there are large and numerous schemes for the development of village and small-scale industries. Fourth, a large-scale stepping up of land reforms and redistribution has been envisaged. There are also schemes for major and minor irrigation, animal husbandry, development of village panchayats, besides long-range plans for afforestation and soil conservation, public health and electrification, spread of elementary education, social welfare and the like.

Co-operation has been allotted a very prominent role. For, (1) agricultural production, (2) industrial production (rural), and (3) co-operation, constitute the three pivots on which the wheels of rural prosperity must revolve. The direction of concentrated effort by the people as well as the administrators, therefore, lies in the vigorous pursuit of these three main objectives.

Agriculture

The Plan says about Agriculture:

"Development involves a transfer of a part of the working force from agriculture to secondary and tertiary activities, but this in turn, presupposes an increase in productivity of agriculture itself, if the food and raw materials requirements of a developing economy are to be met. Improvements in agriculture are thus the basis on which the secondary and tertiary sectors have to be expanded."

Village Industries

About Village and Small-scale industries it is stated:

"Village and Small scale industries in their different aspects are an integral and continuing element both in the economic structure and in the scheme of national planning. The primary object of developing small industries in rural areas is to extend work opportunities, raise incomes and standard of living and to bring about a more balanced and integrated rural economy. Inevitably, in rural areas, the traditional industries have to be given immediate consideration. As the rural economy develops, technical changes will take place in different fields and correspondingly the pattern of rural industrialisation will also change from simple crafts meeting elementary needs, to small industries based on steadily improving techniques and designed to satisfy the needs of a more advanced character. These developments will necessarily be spread over a long period; in the meantime, support through legislation and various positive measures of organisation and assistance for the existing village industries is absolutely vital to the stability and growth of village economy. Thus, the sector of village and small scale industries is not to be viewed as a static part of the economy, but rather as a progressive and efficient decentralised sector which is closely integrated, on the one hand, with agriculture and, on the other, with large scale industry."

Co-operation

The Planning Commission lay utmost stress on development of Co-operation in these words:

'The building up of co-operative sector as part of the scheme of planned development, is one of the central aims of national policy. The fields which mark themselves out as being specially appropriate for the co-operative method of organisation are agricultural credit, marketing and processing, all aspects of production in rural areas, consumers' co-operative stores, co-operatives of artisans, and labour and construction co-operatives. In these fields the objective is to enable co-operation increasingly to become the principal basis for the organisation of economic activity."

This, then in broad outline, is the picture visualised in the Second Five Year Plan.

Agriculture And Rural Industry

At this point a little closer study of the agrarian situation would perhaps enable one to evaluate the relative urgency of the problems which planned integration of rural economy would bring to the forefront.

"The average size of the holding in India is only about five acres though the size varies from State to State... ...A large number of holdings is substantially smaller than the average size. The results of the Agricultural Labour Enquiry conducted in 1949-50 in certain villages of Madras, Bihar

and West Bengal, indicate that the majority of holdings is below two acres." (India – 1954)

According to the Rural Credit Survey carried out by the Reserve Bank, among the different classes of cultivators, big cultivators who form 30 per cent, cultivate 58 per cent of the total sown area; the medium cultivators numerically two-fifths or 40 per cent, cultivate less than a third of the sown area. The small cultivators who are 30 per cent, cultivate a sown area which is just a little more than a tenth of the total area sown by all cultivators. In terms of the average area sown, the small cultivator has about three acres: the medium cultivator has slightly more than six acres and the large cultivator has an area more than 15 acres.

Thus, out of a total number of 5.45 crores of cultivating owners and tenants, nearly 70 per cent cultivate holdings, of the size of six acres or less.

Limited Cultivable Area

The scope for increasing the cultivable area has been assessed by the Census Commissioner in 1951 thus :

"Our present level of gross area sown (reckoning the double crop area more than once) is 32 crores acres. What is it likely to be in 1981? It is suggested that 35 crores is probably about the limit."

As regards productivity, the conclusion was reached that "even with the best efforts we would probably succeed in increasing productivity only by about one-third of the present level." The Planning Commission are more optimistic and are hopeful of doubling production.

Burden of Dependency

The Census Report, 1951, gives the following figures indicating the 'burden of dependency':

Country	Burden of Dependency per 1,000 self-supporting persons.
India	2,504 other persons
U. S. A.	1,547 ,, ,,
Great Britain	1,207 ,, ,,

In India, where the levels of living are nowhere near those in the other two countries, one could appreciate the heavy burden borne by the small peasant, even according to the average figures, and even after the higher population fertility in rural areas is ignored.

Pressure On Land

The Planning Commission estimate that the population would approximate 408 million in 1961; 434 million in 1965-66; 465 million in 1970-71 and nearly 500 million in 1975-76. They add: "There is room for differences in judgment here, but it can be said that these estimates are rather on the low side. As for the redistribution of the working force, it is stated:

"Over the next three Plan Periods the total working force (in all sectors of

productive activity) is expected to increase by 33 million. If the economy develops at the sort of rates indicated in Chapter I (of the Plan), 20 years hence the proportion of the labour force in agricultural occupations may be about 60 per cent in place of the present proportion of 70 per cent."

Thus, instead of 706 persons living on agriculture out of every 1,000 self-supporting persons in 1950–51, the number by 1975-76 would be 600 persons living on agriculture out of every 1,000 self-supporting persons. The corresponding figures for U. S. A. are 128, and for Great Britain 50.

A Composite Picture

A composite picture of the economic condition of the cultivator is now possible to delineate broadly. First, in the case of 70 per cent of the cultivators, the size of the holding is anything from less than an acre to six acres. The influence of the Inheritance Laws in slicing down the size of the larger holdings cannot be exactly estimated, but eventually they, too must be reduced. Next, the burden on land is of the order that out of every 1,000 self-supporting persons, 706 are living on it as producers. The level of income and of living is pretty low. The burden of dependency is roughly 2.5 presons to every cultivator. That was the picture as obtained in 1950–51.

No Substantial Departure

The future prospects do not indicate any substantial departure from this situation. The size of the holding continues to remain small. Increased agricultural production coupled with some rise in prices may be expected to bring some relief to the cultivator. But the growth of population may off-set the fall of 10 per cent in the working force on land, so that there would be some rise in absolute numbers in the primary sector of production. It is presumed that the estimate of working force on land as in 1975-76 is arrived at after probable addition of some 3 crores acres to the total sown area. The 'burden of dependency' would be a variable factor depending, apart from age considerations, upon the work opportunities available in non-agricultural avocations. Even in the matter of increasing efficiency in agricultural production, the country is still in the elementary stages. For instance, Dr. Sampurnanand, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh, stated at a press conference on the 15th July last, that he experimented with co-operative farming in the Terai region, but it proved a failure. The scheme of consolidation of holdings now embraced 21 districts of the State, covering 8,533 villages with eleven million plots. Five more districts would be brought under the purview of that system in October next.

Land has been literally sliced up into small bits and it requires immense effort at consolidation, not to mention anything about re-organisation into co-operative farms.

The Alternative

The more one investigates into the problems of Indian agriculture, the

more one becomes convinced that rural prosperity must depend upon an expanding rural industrial sector. It would be necessary to carry out industrialisation of the rural areas on an immense scale in order to provide a strong base for an integrated economic structure and to facilitate an organic development of the rural economy as a whole. Therefore, if agriculture is described as a way of life in India, pursuit of rural industry ought to become a second way of life.

The Planning Commission observe : "The benefits of economic development accrue more and more to the relatively less privileged classes of society, and a milieu should be created in which the small man has chances of rising in life."

Having regard to the agrarian situation, the growth of such a milieu must largely depend upon rural industrialisation of ever expanding dimensions and upon the growth of tertiary sector at that level. If, therefore, a great drive is necessary to improve and modernise agricultural practices on a nation-wide scale, equally it becomes imperative that comparable efforts be made in the field of rural industry also. Positive planning lies in the direction of building up rural industry as the most important and biggest sector of India's economy. In such an environment, agriculture will come to play a minor role as is witnessed in highly advanced industrial systems.

What then does Rural Industrialisation imply ?

1. Development of Skills : It implies the development of skills on a vast scale. A nation backward in techniques will eventually blossom forth into a hive of advanced, decentralised, industrial activity, where almost every rural house-holder becomes a skilled worker in one line or another. The machine is important. But the skilled and trained man behind the machine is even more important. An immense and technically efficient manpower would be a great asset to the country.

2. Tools And Equipment : As noted by the Planning Commission, a growing population poses the problem of supplying tools and equipment per head. Their present shortage together with that of skills, is a strong indication of the urgency of the problem. Every effort would be necessary to supply them from internal resources because of the size of the demand. Even traditional tools and implements ought to be supplied liberally if only to provide initial training ground for the vast multitude of prospective producers. This suggestion is in accord with Pigou's view that:

> "in a community organised on the general lines of a modern industrial State, associations of workers combined together in small co-partnership workshops constitute an industrial form, investment in which is likely to yield a marginal social net product considerably in excess of the marginal private net product. . . . They (such workshops)

furnish, as it were, a first school in which this capacity (for management) could be developed, and, in so doing, contribute for the service of the community, not merely boots and shoes, but well-trained, competent men, by whose work the national dividend will afterwards be augmented."

This is an age of advancing automation. And for her new industries, India will go in for the latest types of equipment which specialise in displacing man-power to a far greater extent than hitherto. What is called technological unemployment will develop in the existing large-scale industries also at every stage of modernisation which involves installation of automatons to replace worn-out and obsolete machinery. The prospects of direct absorption of manpower in large-scale industries in both the publi : and private sectors are likely to narrow down as days go by. But the problem in India is one of immense and growing man-power which needs to be revivified into a productive agency possessing skill and technical efficiency of the highest order.

3. Democratic Stability : For democracy to function successfully amidst a population of some 367 millions of varying levels of social and political evolution, it is a task already difficult enough. When the number grows to 500 millions, the problem becomes even more unmanageable, unless an economic environment which ensures democratic stability is also developed over the next two decades. This would be better ensured if prosperity could be generated by the people themselves in a tangible and sustained flow and its distribution is based on equity and justice. An all-pervading growth of rural industry with modern techniques at its service and based on strong and efficient co-operative institutions will lay sound foundations for both economic and political stability.

4. Co-operation and State Action: Hence the sponsoring of co-operation through State action becomes as urgent as the growth of rural industrial sector itself. It might be noted here that many industries have failed in the past, not for want of funds nor of equipment, but for want of adequate management at all stages. The rural industrial sector would be no exception to this fatal weakness, if unbridled and unplanned decentralisation is imposed on it in the initial stages.

Several defects such as those arising from want of skills and knowledge, want of adequate supply and transport organisation, want of proper administration and husbanding of resources, want of co-ordinated study of all the problems and their planned solution, would need the very careful attention at the hands of the State as the future prosperity of millions of people is involved. The Rural Credit Survey Committee emphasise the importance of State partnershiip in finance and State participation in organisation "as distinguished from a programme confined to loans, subsidies and similar *ad hoc* assistance."

Such partnership "involves not only financial participation by the State, but also the fullest assistance from it by way of administrative help, supervisory guidance, and, above all, competent and responsive technical staff."

Therefore centralisation of control and direction, for a few years to come, must be accepted as the cardinal principle of organisation of co-operative institutions of all types in the rural areas.

5. Crux Of The Problem: The crux of the problem, however, lies in the influence of markets on production. The development of a large market and the assured off-take of all the production become crucial factors in deciding the future rate of growth and expansion. The process of developing suitable markets would be as elaborate as that of organising production. To serve both the purposes, therefore, there is need for urgent organisation of strong and efficient co-operatives charged with developing trade in all varieties of goods, because that is one effective way of establishing wide contacts with the markets as well as the consumers.

To recapitulate, the main theme of this article is

(1) that India urgently needs a rural industrial revolution of her own, in which individual prosperity outpaces that in the primary sector,

(2) that the transformation of the present untrained man-power into an army of skilled technicians operating their own machines on a co-operative basis in due course, will be a great source of strength to the industrial potential of the country and a powerful factor in ensuring democratic stability,

(3) that centralisation of direction and control are essential in the initial stages of decentralised development, in addition to provision of modern techniques, and

(4) that assured markets commensurate with the needs of production require to be built up and supported by the State on a national scale.

Conclusion

It is evident from the above analysis, that the development of Village and Small-Scale Industries would be essential and urgent and should be undertaken on the widest scale possible. The sooner all these industries are mechanised and the earlier the co-operatives are organised, the brighter are the prospects of prosperity for large masses of people all over the country.

Similarly, unless large-scale industrialisation is also co-ordinated with the human aspect of the problem, the country will continue to witness the "shifts in the national income in favour of the trading and manufacturing sectors of the economy" as noted in the Reserve Bank's Report on Currency and Finance for 1955-56. This position requires to be rectified if national prosperity were not to by-pass India's rural areas only to entrench itself in the urban sector of the economy.

ADDITION TO UNEMPLOYMENT

(Contributed)

Shri Nityanand Kanungo, Union Minister for Consumer Goods Industries, in an attempt to justify the introduction of 35,000 new powerlooms in the co-operative handlooms sector, told the Lok Sabha that this "change-over is an inevitable stage in the improvement of production techniques in order to enable the handloom weaver to improve his earnings and raise his standard of living."

Is it necessary to replace the handloom by the powerloom in order to ensure a higher rate of earnings for the handloom weaver? Mr. G. Etter, the German Expert who was invited by the Government of India to advise on small-scale industries, does not recommend immediate conversion of the handlooms into powerlooms. His view is that productivity of the handlooms can be increased by such technological improvements as the (1) application of "pick up motion" and "let off motion" attachments, and (2) conversion of "throw-shuttle looms" into "fly-shuttle looms". In Indian conditions the change-over to higher techniques has to be gradual, keeping the employment aspect constantly in view. The Karve Committee emphasised this point and said that improvement in techniques should not result in technological unemployment. Mr Etter, too, seems to be conscious about this when he states in his report that the change-over to powerlooms should be gradual. The sudden replacement of handlooms by powerlooms will inevitably result in large-scale displacement of traditional handloom weavers. One can have an idea of the human misery this would create when it is considered that the introduction of 35,000 powerlooms will provide employment only to 70,000 workers, while it will displace 1,75,000 handlooms and 2,62,500 weavers and their assistants. The net addition to unemployment, at 1.5 persons for a handloom, will, thus be 1,92,500.

His Assumptions

"The allocation of production", Shri Kanungo observed, "has been arrived at after a full consideration of the employment aspect. The introduction of powerlooms to produce 200 million yards is only with reference to the additional demand for cloth in the country". The implication is that the handlooms are not capable of producing all the additional 1,700 million yards required during the Second Plan period. For, he says: "the existing production of handlooms is about 1,500 million yards of

cloth. In this scheme, out of the additional demand of 1,700 million yards, another 1,000 million yards have been reserved for production by the handloom industry, making thus a total of 2,500 million yards in all. In order to produce 2,500 million yards of cloth it will require nearly 1.4 million handlooms working full time for 300 days a year at the rate of 6 yards a day per loom. It will be observed, therefore, that there need be no fear of any unemployment''.

Obviously he assumes that there are only 1.24 million active looms in the country which is what the Textile Inquiry Committee over which he presided, said. To produce the allotted quantity of cloth, therefore, 1,60,000 more handlooms will have to be activated. This would provide employment to 2,40,000 weavers and their assistants. Thus, instead of any addition to the unemployed, there will be a net increase of some 47,500 in the number of handloom weavers and their assistants. In consequence, the introduction of 35,000 new powerlooms is justified. If the claim that there are 28 lakhs handlooms in the country, is rejected on the ground that the figures were collected during 1951, that is, "at a time when there was an acute shortage of yarn and the numbers were inflated in order to secure additional yarn supplies", the figure of 12. 24 lakhs was determined at a time of acute crisis in the handloom industry and several lakhs of handlooms were forced out of production. It is indeed strange that no effort has been made by the Handloom Board, during three years and more of its operation, to find out the exact number of handlooms which were fully engaged, partially engaged and idle and to determine how so many lakhs had been rendered idle. But the Board has no doubt about the capacity of the handloom industry to produce not only all the 1,700 million yards of cloth required during Second Plan period, but much more than that.

Handloom Board's View

Board says: "assuming that there are only 22 lakhs of handlooms in the country, these looms will be in a position to produce 3,000 million yards of cloth at a minimum rate of 5 yards of cloth per day working 300 days a year. Actually, provided the yarn supply is guaranteed, there should be no difficulty in achieving an average production of 6 yards of cloth per loom per day. With the improved appliances and equipments proposed to be supplied to nearly 14 lakh looms during the the plan period, handloom production could easily be increased, on an average, to 8 yards per day per loom, thus stepping up the total annual production by the handloom industry to well over 5,000 million yards." Unless Shri Kanungo has more reliable sources of information, it will be difficult to accept his statement to the Lok Sabha.

It is time that certain hard facts about the handloom industry are understood in the proper context and pers-

pective. In all the discussion about the capacity of production in the handloom sector, it has become customary not to count the idle handlooms. Existence of such handlooms having been admitted, humanity would demand that appropriate enquiries are made to determine the cause of the idleness of these looms and then apply remedial measures to bring them into active production. The following statement of the Handloom Board in this context, is significant:

"The Second Five Year Plan contemplates the attainment of a production of 3,200 million yards of cloth by handlooms and power-looms by the fifth year of the Plan period. Assuming that 200 million yards will be produced by the existing powerloom industry, the balance of 3,000 million yards will have to be produced by the handloom industry. At the rate of 4.5 yards of cloth per pound of yarn, the production of 3,000 million yards of cloth will require 16,67,000 bales of yarn, or an average monthly supply of 1,39,000 bales. The present rate of supply of yarn for the handlooms is only about 64,000 bales per month. It follows, therefore, that, by the Plan period, an additional monthly supply of 75,000 bales of yarn for the handlooms alone has to be achieved, if the increased quantum of cloth has to be produced. In other words, the current supply of yarn for handloom will have to be more than doubled. An essential prerequisite of carrying out the proposed plan, therefore, is the enhancement of yarn supplies...... Once the yarn supply is assured, there should be no difficulty in achieving the increased production of cloth."

Unnecessary

It must be obvious from the statement that handlooms have been rendered idle due to the unavailability of yarn supplies to keep them in production. The Kanungo Committee found, during its surveys, that the handloom weaver, by and large, is a whole time worker, which means that he has no other occupation to which he can revert once his loom goes out of production. The number of idle hnadlooms, thus tell the sad story of human misery into which a class of skilled artisans has been pushed. Instead of providing operative facilities for all the handlooms, idle and partially working, the new textile policy seeks to add to the number of idle looms and, in the process, throw out of work, or leave neglected, artisans skilled in traditional crafts. The introduction of new powerlooms in the cloth production programme is, therefore, as unnecessary as its consequences are sad.

State Policy

Another significant fact that emerges from the policy, is that development of the handspinning industry, even through efficient tools and techniques, has been ruled out. What has been conceded to-day will also die out as the change-over of handlooms to powerlooms progresses. This conclusion is supported by Shri Kanungo's statement that "Government policy is based on the change-over to powerlooms of hand-

looms".. The Industrial Policy Resolution of the Government of India which now forms part of the Second Five Year Plan, says: "The aim of State Policy will be to ensure that the decentralised sector acquires sufficient vitality to be self-supporting and its development is integrated with that of large-scale industry. The State will, therefore, concentrate on measures designed to improve the competitive strength of the small-scale producers. For this it is essential that the technique of production should be constantly improved and modernised, the pace of production being regulated so as to avoid, as far as possible, technological unemployment." Will the implementation of the new textile production policy and the treatment meted out to the handloom sector of the industry in it further the declared State Policy and Directive Principles of the Constitution which enjoins that the State "shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting, as effectively as it may, a social order in which justice — social and economic and political—shall inform all institutions of the national life?"

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METALWARE EXHIBITION IN BOMBAY

[By KAMALA S. DONGERKERY]

On Thursday, 9th August, Dr. Hare Krushna Mahtab, the Governor of Bombay declared open what is, perhaps, a unique Exhibition in this city. The exhibition cuts new ground and is unlike the many exhibitions that we have seen in recent times. This Exhibition presents some of man's most ingenious hand-work. I refer to the Metalware Exhibition that the All India Handicrafts Board has put up at the Jahangir Art Gallery. It is seldom realised that metalware is nearly as old as man and, through the ages, has taken many forms and expressions. Creative metalware or art metalware is a fascinating study in human ingenuity, imagination and artistry. It has a background of traditional craftsmanship and, in fact, the development of the human race, from the end of the Stone Age onward, can be traced through its artistic metal work. I am not concerned at the moment with that kind of metal work which could be described as light engineering and which depends largely for its success on mechanical precision. I am concerned with the more important type of artistic metal work which calls for skilful craftsmanship and is fundamentally different from that produced in modern metal factories.

Our Heritage

It has rightly been said that the culture and civililisation of a peope are known through their arts and crafts. Geological excavations and the art of Ajanta, Ellora, Harappa, Kajo Raho and numerous other places revealed to the sophisticated world a method and power of expression which existed in this country centuries ago. This is a part of our cultural heritage. The exquisite mural paintings with their enchanting harmony of line and colour, the carvings on stone and on wood over the gopurams tell the story of a culture, art and civilisation of which any people can be proud and the eminence reached by our people in times gone by. If one were to visit the museums in the country one would come across a variety of delicate craftsmanship carved or wrought on metal.

The metal craftsman of old knew that metal is a plastic material which, in the hands of a skilled craftsman, can be turned into an infinite variety of beautiful things. Metalcraft is not learnt by studying a set of rules. There are certainly guiding principles which have to be mastered before one undertakes the art of beautifying metal and metalware. Training in this art is usually a family tradition. It is handed down

from father to son. For its success it depended on the patronage of the nobility and the well-to-do. As time passed, the art deteriorated for many reasons. The rise of metal factories with their cheap produce of aluminium and stainless steel dealt a heavy blow to the traditional metalware industry which combined utility with beauty. The fate that overtook other village crafts overtook the metal industry as well. Still the craftsmen clung to their traditional vocation and carried on as best they could. Though their numbers have dwindled, the art, fortunately, has been preserved in remote parts of the country.

Secret of The Craft

It is obvious that our craftsmen who worked with metal knew the secret of synchronisation, combination and amalgamation. A simple example of Bell metalware will illustrate my point. It is not made out of any particular metal. It is an amalgum of several metals and has stood the test of time and the inroads of cheaper modern imitations. Because of the finish, shine and durability possible in this metal, it ranks among some of the best metals. It is a typical example of an article which combines utility with beauty. Today many of the bell-metal articles are used for ornamental effect in posh parlours. Similarly, the basic material for Bidri work in Hyderabad is also an alloy of more than one metal-zinc and other non-ferreous metals. There are others like them.

Before I take you to the exhibition itself, it is pertinent to mention that the Government of India attaches great importance to the revival of metalware art and industry. While the expenditure on handicrafts as a whole at the end of the First Five Year Plan amounted to only *one* crore of rupees, the allotment in the Second Plan is as much as *nine* crores. The Handicrafts Board has taken up the re-orientation and reorganisation of metalware crafts in right earnest. The Planning Commission has found in the development of metalware crafts a fruitful source of attracting foreign attention to the rare arts and crafts of India. The Planning Commission in its First Five Year Plan Report said : "Skilled craftsmanship is the principal feature of handicrafts for the greater part. Trade in handicrafts is in the hands of the middlemen, many of whom have been, associated with handicrafts production for generations. As a rule, these middlemen operate on a small-scale and work to orders. The present organisation of handicrafts industries, however, does not make for efficiency or for improvement in quality or adherence to standards or, for that matter, for planned increase in production. Nor are the middlemen in a position to ascertain sufficiently the requirements of foreign markets. The result is that with some excpetions the handicraft industries remain largely static in their methods and outlook. In metal-crafts, the demand for Indian handicrafts could be developed much more if certain minimum conditions could be fulfilled by

the suppliers." The point will be well appreciated when it is known that in almost every capital of a country there are show rooms where these metalware articles are displayed. These have attracted much attention and evoked great interest and appreciation.

Handicrafts Board's Efforts

Today the main difficulty that stands in the way of large-scale exports or in the execution of large-scale orders from foreign customers, is that production is haphazard and carried on, on a small-scale. With the new life that is being infused into this industry and the steps taken by the Handicrafts Board to impart information and training, there is every hope that our metal-crafts will come into their own and attract new talent as well. Research and study of old designs in the context of modern conditions and tastes are factors which will determine the large-scale revival of all our handicrafts. Plans are well in hand for a concerted effort to promote India metalwere craft. Old motifs to suit new conditions and the production of things that retain their intrinsic Indian character and yet appeal to modern sentiment are aimed at.

At the metalware exhibition some rare pieces of art and craft were presented. Among the exhibits are:

1. Tanjore Plates and Bowls with delicate repousse work in three metals, the intricate decorative motif consisting mainly of gods and goddesses.
2. Bidriware from Hyderabad—The pitch black surface with its rich contrast of floral decorative designs in silver make the objects of everyday use so attractive.
3. Bombay Oxidised Copperware – A craft of recent growth but outstanding in its artistic appeal.
4. Rajasthan Brass animals, figurines, lamps and enamelled ware.
5. Moradabad enamelled brassware.
6. Madras silver and Bell metal utensils outstanding for their simplicity and modern forms.
7. Delhi Copper – a credit to present day craftsman who so harmoniously blends the old designs to modern tastes.
8. Silver Costume Jewellery from Rajasthan and Nepal.
9. Filigree articles from Orissa and Hyderabad – representative of the patience, skill and creative genious of Indian Craftsman.
10. Rough hammered brass from Bengal and Assam.

This Exhibition was first inaugurated in Delhi in March last. The Mobile Exhibition Unit of the Handicrafts Board has since taken it to Simla and Srinagar. In all these places public appreciation was spontaneous and the response enthusiastic. Such exhibitions help not only to assemble exquisite pieces of high workmanship for public view, but also in introducing the craftsmanship of one region to another. Besides, they help to create popular interest in an art which deserves not only to live, but to progress and flourish.*

*From a broadcast Talk from AIR, Bombay.

NEWS & NOTES

KHERA COMMITTEE REPORT

The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board which met at Harijan Ashram in Ahmedabad on 12th and 13th July, considered the New Textile Policy of the Government of India and the recommendations of the Ambar Charkha Investigation (Khera) Committee. Discussions which went on for two days dealt with every aspect of the recommendations. While the Board generally welcomed the recommendations of the Khera Committee, it felt that modifications were necessary in certain aspects of these recommendations. It also felt that the allocation of cloth production through the Ambar Charkha was inadequate. The Board's resolutions on these are given below :

The Board welcomes acceptance by the Union Cabinet of the recommendations of the Ambar Charkha Enquiry Committee, particularly the programme for the introduction of 75,000 Charkhas for the financial year 1956-57 and places on record its appreciation of the work of the Khera Committee with its constructive approach to and practical outlook on the Khadi movement. This approach and outlook, the Board assumes, is the result of the Committee's recognition of the basic principles of the movement which aims, among others, at the reorganisation and integrated development of the village economy.

2. While generally endorsing the recommendations and conclusions of the Khera Committee the Board wishes however to draw attention to certain aspects of the specific proposals of the Committee for the purpose of ensuring the successful working out of the scheme and to indicate the directions in which further help and facilities would be needed.

3. In implementing the programme for the Ambar Charkha there are certain basic considerations which the Board desires should inform both policy and action. The Board is happy to note that these considerations have received prominence in the Report of the Khera Committee. It is in order to ensure adherence to these underlying principles that the Board proposes modification of the programme in the following directions :

(1) While all encouragement must be given to those spinning on the traditional Charkha to switch over to the Ambar Charkha, the process may have to be a gradual one, devoid of any element of compulsion. The Board is confident that as the superior efficiency of the Ambar Charkha comes to be established with growing experience, all except the physically disabled and those in need

of special relief will, of their own accord, take to it. For individuals who spin purely for self-sufficiency the choice will have to be left open.

(2) Although one of the principal reasons for the inclusion of the Ambar Charkha programme in the common production programme for the cotton textile industry is to enable the handlooms to raise their production, it should not be overlooked that hand-spinning has to be encouraged and developed as the most suitable subsidiary occupation in rural areas. Hence, while it may be desirable to introduce the Ambar Charkha as extensively as possible among the families of handloom weavers to make the industry as self-sufficient as possible in the matter of its yarn supply, the need for and importance of extending the benefit of decentralized spinning of cotton yarn to all sections of the rural population to provide employment, cannot be over-emphasized. This aspect must weigh largely in determining the future expansion of the programme.

(3) The Board visualizes the day when the entire supply of yarn for the handloom industry will be provided with the aid of the Ambar Charkha. With the programme as now conceived, however, a good portion of handloom weaving will still have to be carried on for the entire period of the Second Five Year Plan with the aid of mill yarn. Handspun hand-woven cloth, that is, Khadi, as the Khera Committee have recognized, has not only an economic and social significance to the planned reconstruction of a village economy, but also has a status in the eyes of the public due wholly to what it connotes for the economic, social and moral uplift of the people in the rural areas. Recognising this, both the Central and State Governments have, as a matter of national policy, extended to Khadi certain concessions and privileges. So long as this position continues it will be wrong, in the opinion of the Board, to take any steps such as a programme for the gradual elimination of certification of the production and sale of Khadi, which will render it impossible to distinguish Khadi from other varieties of cloth whether produced in mills or on handlooms.

4. The Board expresses its gratitude to Acharya Vinobaji for the unfailing guidance he has given to it from time to time and for the illuminating exposition of the place of the Ambar Charkha in our economy which he gave to the Khera Committee. The Board also acknowledges the valuable services rendered by the Ambar Charkha Samiti of the Sarva Seva Sangh in carrying out laboratory tests and field experiments. The Board, further, conveys its grateful appreciation of the helpful co-operation of the various technological institutions in carrying out investigations on the Ambar Charkha.

5. Now that this programme has been accepted as an integral part of the Second Five Year Plan, for the production of cloth, the Board invites all Khadi organisations and Khadi workers to join it in the great adventure and work with enthusiasm and energy for the at-

tainment of the targets and our objectives. The acceptance of the programme as a part of the National Plan, is at once a challenge to our faith and an invitation to demonstrate in action that we can implement the programme in a manner that will, on the one hand, carry conviction to the sceptics among administrators, economists and businessmen and on the other, enlist the support of the people in furthering the expansion of this decentralized sector of our economy.

6. The Board further seeks the co-operation of other constructive Organisations like the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, the Harijan Sevak Sangh, Labour Unions, Sarvodaya Centres, Village Panchayats, Multi-purpose and Weavers' Co-operative Societies and others to help it in working out the programme in their respective fields of activity. It hopes that the general public will extend their full co-operation and active assistance in making the programme successful.

7. In view of the place occupied by the Community Projects Organisation and National Extension Service in our National Plan, the Board appeals to the authorities in charge of these to actively assist in working out the programme in their areas.

Further Research

The Board notes that the Ambar Charkha Enquiry Committee has recommended that "both intensive and extensive efforts should be made for improvements in the design of the Ambar Charkha both in the spinning unit and in the Belni." While concurring in this recommendation, the Board would emphasise that further experiments and investigations should conform to certain conditions laid down by Mahatma Gandhi in 1929, so that the improved implement should fulfil the main purposes for which the Khadi movement stands.

In view of the work that has already been concluded during the past 12 months nearly by the Ahmedabad Textile Industry Research Association, the Board invites the Association to continue the technical research, experiments and tests on the Ambar Charkha that it has carried on so far with a view to effecting further improvements. For this purpose the Board requests the Government of India to allot necessary funds according to the provisional estimates of expenditure placed before it, involving recurring expenditure amounting to Rs. 33,720/- and non-recurring expenditure amounting to Rs. 28,000/-.

The Board hopes that the Sarva Seva Sangh will agree to be associated with these researches, experiments and tests and it requests Shri Krishnadas Gandhi to arrange for the collaboration of the Sangh in this work.

The Board will in addition, carry on such technical research, experiments and tests in other institutions if and when it considers it necessary. As soon as its Technical Research Institute at Maganwadi, Wardha, starts functioning, it will necessarily undertake work on Ambar Charkha as an implement for promoting spinning as a decentralised cottage industry.

Call To Institutions

With the acceptance of the Plans formulated by it, particularly the Ambar Charkha Programme as a part of the nation's Second Five Year Plan, the Board wishes to approach the new tasks set before it in the same spirit in which it undertook its responsibilities at the time of its formation three and a half years ago. The sphere of work assigned to it, the Board looked upon as a contribution to the fulfilment of one of the important aspects of Mahatma Gandhiji's constructive programme.

The basic principles for which this programme stood were the integrated development of village life and rural economy through a planned utilization of local talent and resources to promote self-reliance and self-sufficiency in the villages.

The allocation to the Board now of responsibility for the manufacture of 300 million yards of cloth with Ambar yarn during the Second Plan period considerably improves the outlook for the planned development of not only the Khadi industry, but also a systematized countrywide effort to facilitate the integrated development of life in rural areas. Inasmuch as the underlying principle of the Khadi movement, namely, the promotion of self-sufficiency in villages through the development of the individual and his self-reliance have now been accepted, the Board invites the co-operation of all constructive workers and their respective organizations to implement this programme to further the basic principles of the Khadi movement all over the country.

These are essentially objectives to serve which the Sarva Seva Sangh was established. The Board considers it a privilege to have the opportunity of collaborating with such an institution in the achievement of the common end, namely, the decentralization of production and the building up of a stable and healthy national economy. The Board takes this opportunity also to place on record its deep appreciation of the encouragement, guidance and helpful co-operation it has ever received from the Sarva Seva Sangh in the formulation of its programmes and in implementing them.

HANDPOUNDING OF RICE INDUSTRY

The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board regrets that no definite national policy has yet been announced in regard to the processing of paddy and milling of rice. The absence of any move in response to proposals such as

these outlined in the First Five Year Plan has resulted in an increase in the number of huller mills, big and small, to the detriment of the village industry represented by the hand-processing of paddy and rice. In the opinion of the Board, the question is of more than transitory significance inasmuch as the health of the Nation is dependent on the quality of the rice available to the people. This significance is the more pronounced when it is realized that rice constitutes 70 per cent of the diet of the people of the country and for over 50 per cent of them it is the only source of food and nourishment. It is an universally accepted fact that highly polished rice robs the cereal of its nutrients and is a primary source of deficiency diseases. The declaration of a national policy on so important matter, is, therefore, called for urgently.

The Board has, since 1953 invited the attention of the Government of India to the danger that rice mills of all types and sizes present first to public health and secondly to the means of livelihood of lakhs of women in the rural areas and has recommended that all rice mills–hullers and shellers, big and small–should gradually be closed down. The Board notes with satisfaction that this recommendation to have a phased programme for the stoppage of rice mills–huller and sheller, big or small-has found acceptance at the hands of the Rice Milling Committee appointed by the Government of India.

Notwithstanding these recommendations, the Board regrets to find that new rice mills, particularly of the huller type, are being set up in several parts of the country thus adversely affecting the prospects of the hand-pounding industry getting reorganized and developed. The Board, therefore, requests Central Government to take immediate steps to prevent the starting of mills of the huller sheller or the combined variety, enacting the necessary legislation to enforce the policy. It also requests that, an immediate directive should be issued that polishing of rice should be restricted to the extent it was permitted during the war period and that all rice polished above that limit should be subjected to a special cess.

STATES MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

At the recent Conference of States Ministers convened by the Ministry of Production at New Delhi, one of the recommendations related to the representation of State Governments on the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board and for channellizing of its funds for execution of its programmes through State Governments. In this connection the Board wishes to invite the attention

of the Ministry to the circumstances governing the formation of this Board and to the fact that it was not constituted on any basis of territorial representation. The Board, was brought into existence pursuant to the recommendations of the Planning Commission contained in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of Chapter XXIV of the Report in the First Five Year Plan.

In accordance with one of the directives contained in these recommendations, the Board has approached State Governments to constitute Boards, similar to this Board. The response from the State Governments, the Board is happy to record, has been one of sympathetic co-operation. In practically every State, Khadi and Village Industries Boards have been constituted. Procedural and other restrictions, however, have impeded full advantage being taken by these State Boards except where they are vested with statutory powers. The Board has, from time to time, sought the co-operation of all State Governments to vest such powers in their respective State Boards as that integrated plans for rural development could be worked out and implemented by pooling Central and State resources. In a number of States this suggestion has already been acted upon. The object which the recommendation of the State Ministers' Conference at Delhi seeks to serve, this Board believes, can be achieved, if the State Khadi and Village Industries Board in all the States are vested with statutory powers. Such an organizational orientation for executing rural development plans will, the Board further believes, result in integrating the activities of the State and of non-official organizations and agencies and thus facilitate the execution of the programme for the development of Khadi and Village Industries included in the Second Five Year Plan. The Board accepts the view that save in exceptional circumstances all financial assistance that it provides should be to or through State Boards where they have statutory powers and on the recommendation of Boards which do not enjoy such powers. Where there are no Boards or where Boards have not started functioning or where the Boards do not concern themselves with the development of certain industries, financial assistance will be granted to State Governments. Elsewhere the State Governments may arrange to secure [the necessary intimations from their own State Boards and they keep in touch with the progress of the plan. As an exceptional arrangement the Board would desire to continue its direct contacts with the institutions previously affiliated to the All India Spinners Association but it should provide the necessary information to State Board or in their absence to State Governments about sanctions given and funds thus disbursed. Further, in application of the terms of the conclusions reached at the Ministers' Conference the Board requests the Ministry in taking action to provide for consultations at various stages between the All India Board, the State Boards and the Ministry itself prescribing the time schedule

accordingly. The machinery of departments in States dealing with Khadi and Village industries will be brought into the picture, to the extent that a State Board in consultation with the State Government considers it necessary.

SCHEMES AND SANCTIONS

For the implementation of schemes framed by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board for the development of Khadi and various other village industries, the Government of India have placed at the disposal of the Board, an amount of Rs. 3,61,51,685/- to be utilised during the year 1956-57. The amount represents the sanctions received upto 30-6-56 and covers the following industries :-

1. Khadi		Rs.	1,42,07,800/-
2. Ambar Charkha		Rs.	69,32,020/-
3. Hand-pounding of Rice		Rs.	36,64,200/-
4. Village Industries on intensive basis		Rs.	35,32,500/-
5. Village Oil		Rs.	29,54,800/-
6. Hand-made Paper		Rs.	13,95,250/-
7. Bee-keeping		Rs.	8,74,865/-
8. Training Scheme		Rs.	7,20,000/-
9. Palm Gur		Rs.	7,17,000/-
10. Village Leather		Rs.	6,17,000/-
11. Fibre Industry		Rs.	4,56,400/-
12. Atta Chakkies		Rs.	50,000/-
13. N. E. Oils & Soap-making		Rs.	29,350/-
	Total	Rs.	3,61,51,685/-

Industry-wise details are :-

1. Khadi

Grants of loans to Registered Societies or other institutions recognised by the Board for all or any of the following purposes:-

1. Production and sale of Khadi,

2. Purchase of Kapas, Cotton, Wool and Silk,
3. Purchase of yarn,
4. Purchase of Khadi for supply to Government and others,
6. Taking Khadi on pledge from Production Centres on payment of 60 per cent of the value of stocks,
6. Purchase of raw-materials, implements, etc; and
7. For all operations and charges connected with supplemental and incidental to the production and sale of Khadi. Rs. 65,00,000/-

For payment of rebate at 3 annas per rupee on all sales of Khadi made after 1st April, 1956 Rs. 35,00,000/-

For payment of subsidy at $\frac{1}{2}$ anna in a rupee to all Khadi Centres on their production and/or retail sales of Khadi; and additional $\frac{1}{2}$ anna in a rupee on production and/or retail sales not exeeding Rs. 32,000/- in a year to the Institutions/Centres showing an increase of 10 per cent over the 1955 achievements. Rs. 15,00,000/-

For implementation of "Vastra-swavalamban" scheme on the following basis :

(a) Rebate on weaving charges incurred by the self-spinners at the rate of 75 per cent of weaving charges or 5 annas per sq. yard, whichever is less, and

(b) Subsidy to recognised institutions at the rate of 2 annas per sq. yard of Khadi woven by them under Vastra-swavalamban scheme. Rs. 5,00,000/-

On account of Khadi and Village Industries Exhibitions in different parts of the country. Rs. 8,28,350/-

'Peripatetic Parties' to train people in spinning and weaving. Rs. 3,00,000/-

Saranjam subsidy at 50 per cent of cost of ginning, carding, slivering, spinning, twisting and reeling implements, hand-looms and other weaving accessories connected with the development of Khadi industry, through the Khaddar Bhandars/Centres recognised by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. Rs. 2,50,000/-

Grant for the development of Khadi industry on intensive basis, for meeting 2/3rds of the cost of construction of godowns for 15 Centres upto a maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per centres.	Rs. 1,50,000/-
Grant for the revival of the following arts : 1. Khes weaving, 2. Sambalpur curtain weaving, 3. Kani Shawl, 4. Fine Yarn Spinning above 60's and other similar crafts, 5. Kalamakari Printing, and 6. Patola weaving or any other craft chosen by the Board.	Rs. 1,50,000/-
For payment of honorarium for the promotion of hand-spinning in all parts of the country.	Rs. 1,00,000/-
For implementation of the Board's scheme regarding conducting of spinning classes in Jails and Reformatories.	Rs. 79,200/-
For construction of godowns at 15 centres in various parts of the country in connection with the development of Khadi industry on intensive basis as loans for meeting 1/3rd of the cost of construction upto a maximum of Rs. 5,000/- per centre.	Rs. 75,000/-
For payment of honorarium to workers engaged in the sale of Khadi on 'Agency System'.	Rs. 50,000/-
For meeting expenditure on 150 trainees in Khadi salesmanship.	Rs. 35,250/-
Grant to the individual or institutions (not exceeding Rs. 5,000 in each case).	Rs. 1,50,000/-
For purchase of Khadi Samples and for processing them, i. e., for dying, bleaching, colouring, etc., for stitching them in different varieties, designs and sizes, for preparing sample books, labels, rubber stamps, blocks, etc.	Rs. 30,000/-
For imparting training "Window Decoration".	Rs. 10,000/-
Total	Rs. 1,42,07,800/-

2. Ambar Charkha

For running 15, existing Vidyalayas	Rs. 10,74,300/-
,, ,, 100 ,, Parishramalayas	Rs. 21,60,000/-
,, starting 100 new ,,	Rs. 23,10,000/-
,, manufacturing 10,000 Ambar Charkha sets	Rs. 13,00,000/-
,, continuing 6 existing functional offices	Rs. 87,720/-
Total	Rs. 69,32,020/-

3. Hand-pounding of Rice

For stocking paddy.	Rs. 15,00 000/-
Grants to registered institutions etc., for 'A' and 'B' type units.	Rs. 9,17,200/-
Production Subsidy	Rs. 6,00,000/-
For manufacturing and stocking chakkies, dhenkies, winnowing fans, etc.	Rs. 3,00,000/-
Grant of subsidy to meet 50% of the cost of 4000 Dhenkies subject to a maximum of Rs. 25/- per Dhenki.	Rs. 1,00,000/-
Propaganda & Publicity	Rs 1,00,000/-
Grant of subsidy to meet 50% of the cost of 4000 Stone chakkies subject to a maximum of Rs. 20/- per chakki.	Rs. 80,000/-
Training of 480 workers.	Rs. 38,000/-
Grant of subsidy to meet 50% of the cost of 300 winnowing fans subject to a maximum of Rs.60/- per chakki.	Rs. 18,000/-
Improvements, experiments, etc.	Rs. 10,000/-
For purchase of furniture for the Central Office at Nadiad.	Rs. 1,000/-
Total	Rs. 36,64,200/-

4. Village Industries on Intensive Basis

Grant of recoverable advance for trading in village industries products, to be utilised for purchase of raw materials, implements and village industries products, sale of Village Industries products to the public and to the Government and meeting all expenditure on the opening and maintenance of production centres and sales emporia and other expenditure.	Rs. 15,00,000/-
Grants to Cooperative Societies, registered bodies and/or Statutory State Boards, to carry on Intensive Area Organisation in 50 Centres, 15 Community Production Centres and 50 Workshops.	Rs. 13,64,167/-
Grant of loans to carry out co-ordinated programme for development of village industries on intensive basis.	Rs. 6,68,333/-
Total	Rs. 35,32,500/-

5. Village Oil

Grant of loans for stocking oil-seeds.	Rs. 10,00,000/-
Grant for meeting expenditure on staff and contingencies @ Rs. 4,000/- per centre for 105 existing centres and 25 additional centres.	Rs. 5,20,000/-
Grant of loans to Co-operative Societies/Registered bodies for 50% of the cost of ghanis subject to a maximum of Rs. 150 per ghani for 2000 ghanis.	Rs. 3,00,000/-
Grant of 50% subsidy for 2,000 ghanis subject to a minimum of Rs. 150/- per ghani.	Rs. 3,00,000/-
Production subsidy/rebate on sales of village (ghani) oil	Rs. 2,50,000/-
For implementation of Training programme: payment of stipends, expenditure for running training centres etc.	Rs 1,90,300/-
Expenditure on construction of sheds for the additional 25 centres @ Rs. 5,000/- per centre	Rs. 1,25,000/-
Grant to Cooperative Societies etc. for 20 State organisations.	Rs. 1,90,300/-
Working capital for additional 25 Model centres @ Rs. 2,000/- per centre.	Rs. 50,000/-

Grant for equipment for additional 25 Model Demonstration-cum-Production Centres @ Rs. 1,500 per centre.	Rs. 37,500/-
Contingencies & T. A.	Rs. 23,000/-
Loan for stocking wood @ Rs. 3,000/- per Centre.	Rs. 12,000/-
Improvements and experiments in implements	Rs. 10,000/-
Conferences, Seminars, Symposiums	Rs. 10,000/-
Propaganda and Publicity	Rs. 10,000/-
Loan to 4 Ghani manufacturing workshops	Rs. 7,000/-
Grant for meeting 50% cost of 4 ghani-manufacturing workshops.	Rs. 7,000/-
Total	Rs. 29,54,800/-

6. Handmade Paper

For implementation of the Scheme for training viz. subsidy to 50 New schools, stipends to 15 graduates and 30 other trainees, grants to Training Institutions etc., and subsidised supply of equipment.	Rs. 4,18,250/-
Grant of loans for purchase of equipment to existing or new production centres for meeting 50% of the cost.	Rs. 3,00,000/-
Grant of loans as working capital subject to condition that the maximum loan to be granted to a particular centre, should not exceed 1/5th of the value of planned production.	Rs. 3,00,000/-
Grant of recoverable advance for the purchase of handmade paper against Government orders,	Rs. 2.00,000/-
Subsidy on production to Production Centres on condition that the actual losses on sales of handmade paper should be Rs. 250 at the maximum per ton.	Rs, 1,50,000/-
Contingencies and T. A.	Rs. 22,000/-
Loan to the State Government of Delhi.	Rs. 5,000/-
Total	Rs. 13,95,250/-

7. Bee-Keeping

Central Organisation, 15 existing Area Offices, 150 existing Sub-Stations, 5 new Area Offices, 100 new Sub-stations 25 existing Model Apiaries and 15 new Model Apiaries.	Rs. 4,69,445/-

Grant of loans to the Statutory State Boards or Co-operative Societies or Registered Institutions for expansion of co-

lony and/or for purchasing and stocking implements and honey. Rs. 1,50,000/-

Training, Stipends to 10 apiarist trainees, 200 Field-men trainees, tuition fees, assistance to 25 educated persons for setting up apiaries etc. Rs. 51,600/-

Training in industrial use of honey; Grant to 2 Pedigree Breeding Stations and Grant to 25 Planters. Rs. 51,080/-

Improvement of implements and experiments Rs. 50,000/-

Publicity, Propaganda, Conferences, Seminars, symposiums etc. Rs. 50,000/-

Grant for equipments, hives etc. to 50 schools with Bee-keeping classes @ Rs. 500/- per school Rs. 25,000/-

Grant of loans to be given as assistance to 25 educated persons for hives and equipments, for setting up apiaries at 50 % of the cost or Rs. 500/- per person whichever is less. Rs. 12,500/-

Assistance to Madhya Pradesh State for opening 2 Model Apiaries. Rs. 8,240/-

For meeting expenditure of 7 marketing organisations. Rs. 7,000/-

Total Rs. 8,74,865/-

8. Training Scheme

For 12 Regional Vidyalayas in different parts of the country at Rs.60,000/- per Vidyalaya. Rs. 7,20,000/-

Total Rs. 7,20,000/-

9. Palm Gur

Grant of loans to Statutory State Boards for purchasing tools and equipment and for stocking Palm Gur. Rs. 1,00,000/-

Grant of loans to Cooperative Societies etc. for meeting (a) 50% cost of construction of godowns at Rs. 10,000 per godown for 10 godowns. Rs. 1,00,000/-

(b) 50 % of implements Rs. 3,06,000/-

Grant of loans to Cooperative Societies etc. as working capital for stocking Palm Gur etc. Rs. 2,06,000/-

To meet expenditure for Regional Palm Gur Workers' Conference at Nalgarh (Pepsu). Rs. 5,000/-

Total Rs. 7,17,000/-

10. Village Leather

Grant of loans to cooperative societies/registered bodies/Statutory State Boards as working capital for establishing 6 large depots and 25 small depots for marketing hides and skins, tanned leather and goods, including footwear @ Rs. 25,000/- per large depot and Rs. 15,000/- per small depot.	Rs. 3,75,000/-
Grants to 5 co-operative societies/registered bodies/Statutory State Boards for construction of sheds and purchase of equipment @ Rs. 10,000/- each.	Rs. 50,000/-
Grant for meeting establishment charges, and non-recurring expenditure of 6 Bigger sales depots @ Rs. 22,000/- per depot.	Rs. 1,32,000/-
Grant for meeting establishment charges and non-recurring of 15 smaller sale depots @ Rs. 4,000/- per depot.	Rs. 60,000/-
Total	Rs. 6,17,000/-

11. Fibre Industry

Grant of loans to cooperative societies and registered institutions for purchasing and marketing the pats produced at Board's Centres, loan to each individual society not to exceed Rs. 5000/-	Rs. 3,00,000/-
For opening 120 Training-cum-Production Centres, training of 80 Instructors etc.	Rs. 1,56,400/-
Total	Rs. 4,56,400/-

12. Atta Chakkies

Grant of loans for the improvement of hand-operated and bullock-driven flour chakkies and for manufacturing and stocking implements.	Rs. 50,000/-
Total	Rs. 50,000/-

13. N.E. Oils & Soap-Making

Grant of loan to the State Government of Andhra, being 50% non-recurring expenditure and working capital of Rs. 10,000/-	Rs. 18,375/-
Grant of subsidy to the State Government of Andhra, being 50% non-recurring expenditure, salaries and production Subsidy.	Rs. 10,975/-
Total	Rs. 29,350/-

LATE SHRI PRANLAL DEVKARAN NANJEE

The General Council of Management of the Swadeshi League has passed the following resolution on the demise of Shri Pranlal Devkaran Nanjee, an ardent crusader on the cause of Swadeshi and a prominent businessman with wide sympathies :

"The General Council of Management of the Swadeshi League place on record their deep sense of loss at the sad death of Shri Pranlal Devkaran Nanjee. It was largely through his initiative and enthusiasm that the League was established four years ago with a view to organise a continuous effort for keeping the Swadeshi spirit prominently before the Public. In the formative years, he guided the work and activities on the organisation with considerable energy and enthusiasm. During his term of office as President for over 3 years he succeeded, through the League, in reviving the spirit of Swadeshi and in urging on the public and the Government the importance of positive steps to stimulate the increased use of Swadeshi goods and services. The more important ideas and suggestions which he had formulated came subsequently to be accepted by Government following the recommendations of the Stores Purchase Committee.

The Council gratefully recall his untiring and zealous efforts in promoting the cause of Swadeshi during his term of office as President. Shri Pranlal's work and contribution in other spheres of public activity are of an equally abiding character. As President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, as President of the Indian Banks Association and as a Member of the Executive bodies of other commercial organisations like the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Bombay Shroffs Association etc., he served the commercial and industrial interests of the country in an effective manner.

Cultural and educational activities found in him an ardent supporter. As President of the Gujarati Natya Mandal, he assisted the revival of the dramatic art under modern conditions. His approach to human problems was equally sympathetic and all charitable causes found in him a ready and willing supporter. The loss to the public life of the country and to the City by his death will really cause a void which, the Council feel, it would be difficult to fill."

"Sutra Yagna"

The workers and staff of the Zonal office of All India Khadi and Village Industries Board at Jaipur have decided to celebrate the forthcoming Gandhi Jayanti in the most befitting manner and have already started "Sutra Yagna", since 17th July. They are spinning yarn regularly for one hour from 10-30 to 11-30 A.M. daily.

TRANSITION TO AMBAR YARN KHADI

Questions relating to the transition to the Ambar Charkha came up for the consideration of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board at its meeting in Kancheepuram towards the end of May 1956. Most important of these questions was that concerning the prices of Ambar yarn Khadi and traditional Khadi. The Board decided that the question must be thoroughly investigated and, therefore, appointed a Committee consisting of the following Members :

1. Shri Vichitra Narain Sharma (Chairman & Convenor)
2. Shri V. V. Jerajani
3. Shri N. R. Sowni
4. Shri Bhimsen Vedalankar
5. Shri Rameshwar Agrawal
6. Shri G. Ramachandran.

The Committee met in the Harijan Ashram, Ahmedabad, on 10-7-1956 and finalised its report and conclusions. These were represented to the All India Khadi "and Village Industries Board on 11-7-1956. The Board discussed the report and the conclusions and accepted them as its Khadi Price" Policy during the transition from traditional Khadi to Ambar yarn Khadi. The following is the report and conclusions of the Khadi Prices Committee.

THE REPORT AND CONCLUSIONS

The Ambar Charkha is being introduced in the field of Khadi production. More yarn can be spun on it than on the traditional Charkha. From lint to yarn, production is $2\frac{1}{2}$ times more on the Ambar Charkha. The question is how best advantage can be taken of the greater productivity of the Ambar Charkha.

The ruling rate for spinning on the traditional Charkha has been fixed at 1 anna per hour of spinning, i. e. 8 annas for a day of 8 hours work. It is the considered opinion of the Committee that the rate of payment for spinning on the Ambar Charkha should be 12 annas for an average efficient spinner, for 8 hours work from lint to yarn. Thus the spinner would be able to earn 50 percent more and produce $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as much yarn as on the traditional Charkha. Being qualitatively superior, weaving charges for Ambar yarn, could gradually be reduced. Khadi, woven out of Ambar yarn, will, therefore, be cheaper.

Under Gandhiji's inspiration and the guidance of the All-India Spinners Association, the policy behind Khadi work has always been that no profits should accrue on the operation. If there are margins between incomings and outgoings in spite of this policy, the surplus amounts should be used in the interest of the artisans or in the interest of the consumers by lowering the price of Khadi. This policy is being followed today through conditions

attached to the grant of certificate and it is essential that this should continue to be our governing policy even in future. Khadi cloth from Ambar yarn would obviously be cheaper, but there should be no profits on it.

We have also, at the same time, to see that the interests of the traditional spinners do not suffer so long as we are not in a position to give them the benefit of the Ambar Charkha which enables them to earn more. This switch-over cannot take place at once and the process may take two or three years. In the mean time, the traditional spinners should get the same wages as they are getting today and the Khadi so produced must find sale. Besides, in times of distress due to floods, famine etc. it may not be possible for persons who do spinning as part of a programme of relief, to be supplied the Ambar Charkha and taught to spin on it. There may also be cases in which spinning on the traditional Charkha provides to spinners the only means of livelihood. In such times and in circumstances spinners should be afforded facilities to earn their living through traditional Charkhas. Considering this and other allied aspects arising out of the Ambar Charkha Programme, the Committee which met on 10-7-1956 in the Harijan Ashram, Ahmedabad, has come to the following conclusions :

CONCLUSIONS

1. It is not desirable to make a distinction between Khadi woven out of Ambar yarn and that woven out of the traditional Charkha yarn. It is also neither possible nor feasible to make any differentiation in the prices of the two varieties of cloth. It is, therefore, necessary that the price of both should be pooled together so that there is neither profit made on Ambar Khadi nor loss incurred on traditional Khadi.

2. Wherever possible, Ambar yarn may be used for warp and yarn from the traditional Charkha for weft in weaving Khadi, so that automatically an average is struck in the price of Khadi.

3. If each institution undertaking production, works out its average cost between the cost of Khadi from Ambar yarn and that of Khadi from the traditional Charkha yarn and reduces prices on its own initiative and according to its convenience, it might create a problem for those centres where Ambar Charkha has not been either introduced or has not yet gone on to the stage of effective production. Any attempt to work out a national average price might, on the other hand, result in centralised control and present accounting and other difficulties. Hence, for some time to come, it will be desirable for Khadi institutions in each State to assess their respective production of Khadi through Ambar yarn and traditional Charkha yarn, pool their prices and fix an average price for the State or States concerned. In pooling the prices, it may be also

considered whether it is necessary or desirable to reduce the price for certain specified varieties of Khadi.

4. Every Khadi Institution should see that it introduces Ambar Charkha within a period of two years from now, so that they will not have to depend on the resources of the other institutions which have already introduced Ambar Charkha for bringing down the level of Khadi prices. After 2 years each institution must be in a position to fix average prices for its own Khadi.

5. It will be desirable to bring about a gradual reduction in the prices of Khadi along with the progress of Ambar yarn production, instead of waiting till large profits have accumulated from the Ambar yarn Khadi. Hence, it is desired that this gradual reduction should be introduced at as early a date as possible. It is not necessary that such steps should be uniform or should be taken simultaneously in all States. Where conditions are favourable this reduction should be effected without delay. In the past few years Khadi work has expanded. Obviously, this has resulted in a saving on establishment and other charges. It may be that, in some cases, this saving might have been offset by the higher price paid for the purchase of cotton; but there are institutions which had saved on this item due to the lower prices at which cotton was purchased in past years. These factors should also be taken into account while effecting a reduction in Khadi prices. Having taken all these different factors into consideration, the Committee has come to the conclusion that the process of reducing Khadi prices in all states should be taken up at as early a date as possible. Such a step will have a favourable effect on consumers and will give an impetus to the popularisation of Khadi among the public.

KHADI PRICES

6. The programme for the Ambar Charkha is a constant and steady expansion of production. As production expands it will be necessary periodically, that is, at intervals of six months, to review and revise the prices. This should be the practice till the time when the quantity of Khadi produced out of Ambar yarn increases so considerably that the pooled price comes nearer to the cost of Ambar Khadi production.

7. To determine the average price and to bring about gradual reduction in Khadi prices, institutions in a State will take counsel together every six months. The Zonal Director of the Khadi Board may co-ordinate such activities.

8. As the process of reduction in prices will vary both in respect of time and of the rate of reduction, the Certification Committee, if necessary, will formulate appropriate rules governing inter-provincial relations in this respect.

9. In an area where Khadi sales centres predominate, the institutions

which sell Khadi should not give to their customers the benefit of reduced prices at the cost of producing States and Centres. They should be satisfied with such average prices as can be obtained within their sphere of work.

10. New production-cum-sales centres which will produce only Ambar yarn Khadi, must pool their profits with other institutions in the same State in fixing average prices. It is obligatory on them to join this scheme of pooling prices in the interest of traditional Charkha spinners in the State even after a period of two years, if necessary.

11. A village which desires to work on the basis of either cloth self-sufficiency or which produces Khadi for consumption inside the village, may be permitted to sell Khadi at cheaper rates locally with the help of Khadi produced with Ambar Charkha yarn or with reduction of spinning wages on the traditional Charkha. Such a village, however, will not be eligible for the rebate of 0–3–0 in the rupee on the sale of Khadi. It will only be entitled to subsidy on weaving to the extent of 75 percent of the weaving charges or 5 annas per square yard, whichever is less. All the yarn produced in the village may be woven in the village or outside. This procedure is adopted with a view to making it entirely self-sufficient for clothing its people. This facility will not be extended to cities or to institutions where the present Swavalamban subsidy will continue to be given to individual spinners. In a village where, due to lack of adequate opportunities of gainful employment in agriculture or otherwise and/or where conditions of extreme poverty prevail and the spinners are unable to meet the expenses involved in the purchase of cotton or in weaving for self-sufficiency purposes, they may be permitted to sell their yarn or Khadi at cost price with the concurrence of the Certification Committee and to institutions which it may name.

12. The basic objective of the Khadi programme is that Khadi should be consumed where it is produced and produced where it is consumed. In order to promote this objective and to help in its attainment, a special minimum rebate of 0–1–0 and if possible 0–1–6 may be given (by the institutions concerned) to artisans and villagers who buy Khadi in areas where there are production centres. Spinners and weavers of those areas near the cities where special arrangements have been made for sales, i. e., where sales Bhandars have been started, should get the benefit of this special rebate against their Khadi deposits.

13. Wherever, arrangements for supplying Ambar Charkhas to all the spinners have been completed, the wages of spinning traditional yarn should be brought down to the level of Ambar spinning wages. Those persons for whom spinning traditional yarn is the only means of livelihood because of old age, infirmity or other disability should, however, be paid

the present spinning wages.

14. Even after spinning on the Ambar Charkha becomes wide-spread, wherever immediate relief is to be given at the time of natural calamities like flood and famine etc., and it is necessary to provide work to the needy through the traditional Charkhas, the present wages of spinning should prevail, irrespective of the relief measures taken by the Government.

15. It is necessary to expand the work of Ambar Charkha as early as possible. Wherever it is found that additional incentives have to be provided to effect the speedy introduction of the Ambar programme, an additional wage of half an anna per hank of yarn spun on the Ambar Charkha should be paid to the spinner. This additional wage may be given for a period not exceeding six months from the date of the spinner's admission to a Parishramalaya.

WORLD BEE-KEEPERS CONGRESS MEETS

At the invitation of the International Congress of Bee-keepers, the Government of India deputed Shri S. K. Kallapur to represent India at the Congress in Vienna. The Congress met between August 12 and August 20.

The International Congress of Bee-keepers is representative of the Bee-keepers of the world and meets every two years in different countries at the invitation of their Governments. This year the Congress was invited by the Government of Austria.

At the Congress, experts on different aspects of Bee-keeping read specialised papers relating to research and other subjects of interest to Bee-keepers. During the period of the Congress, delegates attending it, were taken round important bee-keeping villages, apiaries and research institutions in Austria.

Shri Kallapur who represented India at the Vienna Congress, is the Organiser for Bee-keeping industry of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. He left Bombay for Vienna by an Air India International plane on August 9 and returned to Bombay on August 23.

A brief report of the Congress is given below:

At the 15th International Congress of Beekeepers held at Copenhagen in 1954, it was resolved that the 16th Congress should be held at Vienna in August 1956. The Osterreisch-ischer Imkerban (The Austrian Beekeepers' Federation) accepted the responsibilities of organising it.

The registration of delegates, and the distribution of the badges and the papers were made on the 12th. A cocktail party was organised the same evening to enable the delegates to introduce themselves to each other.

The Executive Committee of the Vienna Congress consisted of the President of the National Council, the

Vice-Chancellor, 6 Ministers, the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, the Governor of Lower Austria, and two ex-Ministers.

The regular proceedings commenced on the 13th at 8-30 a. m. in the gaily decorated central hall of the Neues Wiener Rathous (the Town Hall Building). Over 700 delegates representing the Governments and beekeeping institutions of 36 countries attended the Congress. Of them about 40 per cent were women. Scientists of eminence who had also been invited, attended and participated in the deliberations of the Congress.

Arrangements to interpret the speeches in German, English and French had been made. Mr. O. Morganthaler of Switzerland, the Secretary General of the Api Mondia (World Organisation of Beekeepers), opened the Congress sessions. He gave an account of the progress of the industry and referred particularly to the contribution made by scientists in the development of the industry. He introduced Dr. Ing Julius Raab H. C. D. Dr., the Chancellor of the Austrian Union who presided over Congress sessions.

In all 79 papers were read. They were divided into two categories, those of interest to scientists, and those of interest to practical beekeepers. The papers related to the different diseases of bees; the economic and breeding values of the different races of bees; artificial insemination: professional queen breeding; bees in various lands; royal jellies; the effects of the different insecticides on bees; bee pastures; beekeeping tools; the saving of wax; saturation points; the anatomy and biology of bees; effects of the different fertilizers on nectar secretion; the feeding of bees, etc.

An exhibition was arranged on the ground floor of the Town Hall. It was formally declared open by the President of the Congress. There were 28 stalls. The exhibits included scientific instruments used in the research stations, honey and wax produced in various parts of Austria and West Germany, the industrial products of honey, jams, jellies, marmalades, bee venoms, face-creams, royal jellies, syrups, bee-keeping equipments, evolutions of the modern hive from the skeps and logs, ancient beekeeping appliances, the sources of honey in the various parts of Austria, the density of colonies and beekeepers in Austria, etc. In a few stalls charts explaining the biology and anatomy of bees had been exhibited, with all the periodicals relating to beekeeping and live bees.

Arrangements had been made to enable the delegates to visit one of the research stations, one queen mating yard and some private apiaries. The delegates were also taken round the town and shown the important buildings, libraries and the ancient capital at Melk.

The present state of the beekeeping industry in different countries can be gauged from the following figures :-

Finland	500 Metric tons	Yugoslavia	11000 ,, ,,
Norway	700 ,, ,,	W. Germany (D.B.R.)	13500 ,, ,,
Belgium	1000 ,, ,,	Poland	14000 ,, ,,
Netherlands	1000 ,, ,,	France	15000 ,, ,,
Switzerland	1400 ,, ,,	U. S. S. R.	100000 ,, ,,
Portugal	2000 ,, ,,	Guatemala	2000 ,, ,,
Denmark	2200 ,, ,,	Chili	3000 ,, ,,
Greece	2900 ,, ,,	Cuba	3500 ,, ,,
Sweden	3000 ,, ,,	New Zealand	7000 ,, ,,
Austria	3500 ,, ,,	Mexico	7500 ,, ,,
Rumania	3700 ,, ,,	Canada	13000 ,, ,,
Britain	4000 ,, ,,	Argentina	15000 ,, ,,
Czechoslovia	4200 ,, ,,	Australia	15000 ,, ,,
Italy	6500 ,, ,,	U. S. A.	100000 ,, ,,
E. Germany (D. B. R.)	8000 ,, ,,		
Bulgaria	8000 ,, ,,		
Spain	10000 ,, ,,		

India produces roughly 1500 metric tons of apiary honey, over 10,000 metric tons of wild honey.

HYDERABAD TELIS MEET IN CONFERENCE

Nearly two hundred telis representing 22 cooperative societies in Hyderabad who met at the All Hyderabad Teli Conference declared that they would not use oil other than pressed by their ghanis, they would make every effort to see that only ghani-pressed oil was consumed in the areas of their operation and that oil-men who, for one reason or another, were forced to deal in oil other than pressed by ghanis would cease to deal in those oils.

The Conference which was inaugurated by Shri Vinayak Rao Vidyalankar, Industry Minister, on August 12 in Hyderabad, further constituted an integral part of the movement for the all-round progress of rural India and, therefore, ghanimen should make common cause with other artisans in villages and, as far as possible, use for their personal needs only articles produced in the villages.

The Conference was presided over by Shri T.B. Bhatt, Organiser of the Village Oil Industry of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board.

At the outset the Conference considered the territorial changes imminent on the reorganisation of States and decided to form three Regional Committees for the three linguistic areas of the State. Representatives from the three areas were selected to coordinate the activities of the three Regional Committees and guide them.

Other resolutions adopted at the Conference pertained to the operative

facilities necessary to put the ghani oil industry on a sound footing in the State. The Conference demanded (1) enhancement of the provision for working capital from Rs. 250 to Rs. 500 per ghani in case of improved ghanis; (2) provision for augmenting the rate of loan in relation to the paid-up share capital to co-operative societies; (3) provision of part of share capital to telis by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board to enable them to become members of the cooperative societies; (4) provision of a grant of one hundred rupees per ghani in the case of old ghanis for their improvement; (5) provision for construction of ghani sheds and living quarters to telis; (6) the use of only ghani pressed oil in government hospitals, hostels and other establishments to the exclusion of other oils; (7) the enhancement of the present rebate of one anna per seer of ghani pressed oil to two annas per seer; (8) exemption of ghani pressed oil from sales tax and municipal and octroi duties; (9) provision of facilities of marketing and quality control of ghani pressed oil; and (10) supply of oil-seeds to telis after they had been cleaned by the dealers in order to ensure the supply of good quality oil seeds for pressing.

In addition to these resolutions, the Conference also decided that each co-operative society of telis should undertake a survey of the position of ghani industry in its respective area of operation and also on the number of power-driven expellers and rotaries or mills, and report to the State Khadi and Village Industries' Board at an early date.

MAHAVIDYALAYA AT WARDHA

In its efforts to expand facilities for training C. P. A. personnel to organise and execute development programmes for Khadi and Village Industries in the project areas, the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board has established a Mahavidyalaya in the premises of the G. S. College of Commerce, at Wardha. This is the fourth Vidyalaya of its kind, the other three being located in Nasik, Ahmedabad and T. Kallupatti in Madras State.

The Mahavidyalaya was formally opened on August 15. Shri B. G. Kher who inaugurated the Mahavidyalaya, delivered an inspiring address.

Shri Shriman Narayan, General Secretary of the Congress, gave a background of the activities that were carried on within the premises of the College in the direction of training Khadi workers over a long period of years.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Shri R.S. Dhotre, Chairman of the Standing Training Committee of the Board, and Shri Dhirubhai Desai, Director of Training.

(A fuller report of the function will be published in the next issue of 'Khadi Gramodyog').

PRESIDENT OPENS PARISHRAMALAYA

"The future of the Ambar Charkha depends to a great extent on the success achieved in the first year of the programme. Workers trained in this charkha have, therefore, a great responsibility and have been put on their mettle for achieving the desired result", observed Dr. Rajendra Prasad, declaring open the first Parishramalaya of the Madras Government in Tirumangalam on August 16.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad who arrived in Tirumangalam by special train from Madras, was accompanied by the Governor of Madras, Shri Sri Prakasa, the Chief Minister, Shri K. Kamaraj, and Shri M. Bhaktavatsalam. From the station the President drove in an open car to the Parishramalaya. On the way he was cheered by large crowds which had gathered on either side of the road.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad inspected an exhibition, organised by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. A special feature of the exhibition was the display of several charts explaining the Ambar Charkha programme of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, its economic and social benefits and the fallacy of the opposition to State aids and subsidies.

The President emphasised that they should concentrate not only on the manufacture of Ambar Charkha and training the required number of workers, but also on the production of the prescribed amount of yarn within the period. Reminding them that Tamil Nad played a prominent part in the propagation of Khadi and that the original Ambar Charkha was conceived here, the President hoped that the workers enagaged in this charkha in the State would not rest on their oars, but would strive to achieve more.

A Great Task

Expressing his pleasure at inaugurating the Parishramalaya, the President said that many years ago Mahatma Gandhi, on behalf of the All India Spinners' Association, had advertised the award of at least one or two lakhs of rupess for an improved pattern of charkha. Many people who were mechanically-minded, employed themselves in inventing some kind of charkha which would fulfil the test which Gandhiji had laid down. Although the competition was kept open for several years, no charkha came up to the mark and the prize was not given. It was only a little over a year ago that Ambar Charkha had been invented and it was believed that it could fulfil the tests which Gandhiji had laid down. Experiments were going on and improvements were being daily made. It hoped that in course of time it would give even better results than so far.

On the basis of the results achieved so far, the President said, the Government had decided to encourage the Ambar Charkha and had entrusted the Khadi Board with the great task of producing some 300 million yards of cloth made of hand-spun yarn. In the first

year the programme was to introduce at least 75,000 Ambar Charkhas in the country. It was not a small number if one would think of the amount of work which had to be put in. It was not only a question of making 75,000 Ambar Charkhas and putting them in the hands of the people, but the results had to be judged on the basis of the production which these charkhas would be able to give.

On Trial

"All those who are engaged in this work have, therefore, a great responsibility. They are put on their mettle. They should not only purchase the charkhas and train the necessary number of people, but should also be able to produce the prescribed amount of yarn within the period. They should always remember that they are in the position of examinees. Examiners are supposed to have no sympathy. They have their own standards and they will judge the results by those standards. On the success achieved in the very first year, the programme for the following years will, to a great extent, depend. I hope Parishramalayas like this and other subsidiary organisations which are being established all over the country, will be able to fulfil the expectations made of them".

Steps In Madras

Shri Bhaktavatsalam, requesting the President to inaugurate the Parishramalaya, described the activities of the State Government in regard to the Khadi movement and its latest development and said that the Madras Government was the first State Government in the country to adopt the Khadi scheme as a Government venture. A great advance had been made in recent years, so much so the expenditure on the scheme had increased from Rs.30 lakhs in 1954-55 to Rs. 60 lakhs in 1955-56, and was estimated to be Rs.90 lakhs in the current year.

The Minister further stated that the number of hand-spinners benefited by the scheme of the Government was over 60,000 and it was expected to increase considerably in the current year. The State Government had also adopted it as a policy to introduce hand-spinning in all the National Extension Service and Community Project Areas. They were also actively considering the question of manufacturing Ambar Charkhas on a large scale so as to enable them to meet the foreseeable requirements of the future.

It was a happy augury, Shri Bhaktavatsalam said, that the Government's first step in the implementation of the Ambar Charkha programme was undertaken under the inspiring presence of the President.

The Parishramalaya, opened by the President, is the first training centre for spinners on the Ambar Charkha set up by the Madras Government. The programme is to open 15 such training centres throughout the State by March, 1957. The Parishramalayas will provide training for over 4,000 spinners during the first year and the number will progressively increase in the

succeeding years. One hundred spinners from the villages will be trained at a time on the Ambar Charkhas for a period of three months in each of these institutions. At the end of the training, each spinner-trainee will be given a charkha, the cost of it, Rs. 100, to be recovered in instalments over a period of four years.

Visit To Ashram

After inaugurating the Parishramalaya, the President accompanied by the Governor, the Chief Minister and Shri Bhaktavatsalam visited the Gandhi Niketan Ashram in the Community Project Centre at Tiruverankurichi Kallupatti, 12 miles from Tirumangalam. All along the 12 mile route, people from nearby villages assembled in large numbers to greet the President. At Kunnathur, on the way, the President was garlanded on behalf of the local Panchayat Board.

On arrival at Gandhi Niketan Ashram, the President was received by Dr. J. C. Kumarappa and Shri R. Guruswami. Dr. Kumarappa introduced the workers of the Ashram to the President after which the President garlanded a bust of Gandhiji in the Gandhi Mandap. Dr. Kumarappa also offered to the President a Khadi garland and an Angavastram.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad spent a couple of hours inspecting the working of the various departments like the Khadi Section, Cooperative Society, Village Industries Products Manufacturing Section, Paddy-husking Section, Hand-made Paper Section, and the Pottery Section.

POWERLOOMS

Shri M. Somappa, a member of the All India Handloom Board, says that non-official members of the Board were opposed to the policy of encouraging the introduction of powerlooms in place of handlooms. In case the Government did not give up "this unwanted and harmful scheme of replacing handlooms, with powerlooms, the non-officials of the Board representing the Handloom industry may decide to resign jointly". But before any such action is taken they would wait in deputation on the Prime Minister.

x x x

The Working Committee of the Hyderabad State Weavers' Congress at its recent meeting said that the introduction of powerlooms would only mean throwing the hand-loom weavers out of employment. The Board of Directors of the Hyderabad Handloom Weavers' Central Cooperative Association has also expressed the view that in no way the new textile policy could be helpful to the Handloom weavers and urged the Government to drop the idea of introducing powerlooms.

x x x

Reiterating his assurance to the Madras Legislature, Shri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Agriculture, declared that if it was proved that the introduction of powerlooms was prejudicial to the interests of the weavers, the Madras Government would not hesitate to withdraw even the steps taken by them. He

said that he had explained this clearly to the representatives of weavers who met him in Salem.

x x x

The two-day meeting of the All India Handloom Board in Bombay on August 25 and 26 did not discuss that part of the new textile policy which provided for the introduction of 35,000 new powerlooms in the place of handlooms. When the question was raised during discussion it is understood that it was over-ruled. The Board considered only problems relating to the production of the additional 700 million yards allotted to the handloom sector in textile policy.

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Ambar Charkha In Jails

The Ambar Charkha is being introduced in the Raipur, Nagpur and Jabalpur Jails, says a press report. The report adds, under the care of the deputy commissioners of districts, after-care prisoners' societies are being formed to enable the prisoners to eke out an honest livelihood after their release.

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Saurashtra Board

The Saurashtra Legislative Assembly has passed a bill making the Saurashtra Khadi and Village Industries Board, a permanent body.

CEYLON CELEBRATES PALM TREE MAHOTSAVA

A statement issued by the All-Ceylon Gandhiya Seva Sangh says :

The All-Ceylon Gandhiya Seva Sangh has ben celebrating the Gandhi's Jayanti, October 2, as Palm Tree Mahotsava for the past many years. This year the Sangh has decided to celebrate this Mahotsava in a more enthusiastic manner and spread over the celebrations to one month, from September 1 to October 2. The Sangh believes that by this the spirit of Swadeshi could be more effectively inculcated in the people.

During this period educational institutions, rural welfare societies, social organisations and other public bodies will arrange to celebrate the Gandhi Jayanti as Palm Tree Mahotsava by planting palm seeds, using palm food products individually and collectively and popularise in other ways the palm food products.

The eradication of poverty and unemployment by means of economic development could be achieved only through the growth of village industries. The necessity to encourage village industries and production of palm candy and sugar should be advocated. Government should issue palm tree stamps and currency notes to show the dominant role which the palm tree plays in Ceylon's national economy.

By arranging essay and elocution competitions in schools and other public institutions, students and others could be exhorted to support the cause of palm tree. The real Swadeshi movement in Ceylon is to encourage village industries by boycotting foreign-made machinery products.

Shri Vinoba Bhave's birthday on September 11 and Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on October 2, will be celebrated as 'Charkha Jayanti'. During these days spinning and prayer meetings will be arranged.

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2. Contributions and letters intended for publication in this Journal must be brief, must deal exclusively with any one particular aspect of the programmes for development at a time and must bear the name and address of the writer. They must be typed on one side of the paper and must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope if their return is desired. All communications must be addressed to the Editor, "Khadi—Gramodyog", Post Box No. 482, Bombay, and not to any person by name.

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MANUAL LABOUR

"I happened to read a report published by the Government about unemployment amongst the educated. No correct figures are available about the unemployment and under-employment amongst the illiterate living in the villages. In 1956–57 there were three million candidates who had passed the matriculate examination. There are another two millions who have passed the intermediate and graduate examinations of the university. That means roughly one in seventy-two is a matric, or a B. A. This figure would grow, and soon one in fifty would be of this standard.

If this class of educated young men keeps away from physical labour it will be a serious calamity. Some work they will have to do. For no one can earn without working. But most of them can never feel the sense of dignity of work. They will work helplessly as the peasant today is doing, or as his bullocks do. Work for them is compulsory. A peasant works very hard on the field. But when he meets an educated person, he feels small before him. If the primary work of production like agricultural labour is considered low, how will the country prosper? A peasant likes to send his son to the school and is anxious that he should get a university degree. I have seen that many of them actually starve to enable their children to get higher education. This is not because they value knowledge. Far from it. They are anxious that their children at least should get a higher social position. And a higher position means earning an income without doing any physical productive labour. Gibbon has said in his 'Fall of the Roman Empire' that one of the main causes for the downfall of Rome was that the educated class shunned bodily labour. It is a historical truth that only that group of men prospers who accepts physical work and considers it honourable and dignified".

—VINOBA BHAVE

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